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THE

POCKET PRAYER-BOOK,

FOR THE USE OF

THE CLERGY AND OTHERS

IN

The Visitation of the Sick.

BY

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PREFACE.

THIS Book is intended for the Clergy and others who, ministering in extensive Parishes, require a manual that will fit easily into the pocket. The Services are framed in accordance with, and are intended to be supplementary to, the Office for "The Visitation of the Sick." The Lessons and Prayers are chosen for the most part from "The Book of Common Prayer," as being familiar to the sick from their use in Divine Service.

Most of the short expositions of the Epistles, Gospels, and Psalms are thrown into the form of "Thoughts," in order that the sick person may apply them more readily to himself. These "Thoughts" may be enlarged at the discretion of the reader, or the Scripture passages may themselves be studied, and more lengthy Expositions given. If desired, the singular number may be used in the Collects instead of the plural, as being more directly applicable to the sick person.

I have to express my thanks to Sir HENRY W. BAKER and others for permission to print their Hymns.

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Offices

FROM THE

Book of Common Prayer.

THE MINISTRATION OF PRIVATE BAPTISM OF CHILDREN IN HOUSES.

¶ *The Priest coming to the Font (which is then to be filled with pure Water,) and standing there, shall say,*

OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

¶ *Then shall the Priest say,*

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, Who of Thy great mercy didst save Noah and his family in the ark from perishing by water, and also didst safely lead the children of Israel Thy people through the Red Sea, figuring thereby Thy holy Baptism; and by the Baptism of Thy well-beloved Son Jesus Christ, in the River Jordan, didst sanctify Water to the mystical washing away of sin; We beseech Thee, for Thine infinite mercies, that Thou wilt mercifully look upon *this child;* wash *him* and sanctify *him* with the Holy Ghost; that *he*, being delivered from Thy wrath, may be received into the ark of Christ's Church, and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, that finally *he* may come to the

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land of everlasting life, there to reign with Thee, world without end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY and immortal God, the aid of all that need, the helper of all that flee to Thee for succour, the life of them that believe, and the resurrection of the dead; We call upon Thee for *this Infant*, that *he*, coming to Thy holy Baptism, may receive remission of *his* sins by spiritual regeneration. Receive *him*, O Lord, as Thou hast promised by Thy well-beloved Son, saying, Ask, and ye shall have; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: So give now unto us that ask; let us that seek find; open the gate unto us that knock; that *this Infant* may enjoy the everlasting benediction of Thy heavenly washing, and may come to the eternal kingdom which Thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY, everliving God, Whose most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins, did shed out of His most precious side both Water and Blood; and gave commandment to His disciples, that they should go teach all nations, and baptize them in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; Regard, we beseech Thee, the supplications of Thy congregation; sanctify this Water to the mystical washing away of sin; and grant that *this child*, now to be baptized therein, may receive the fulness of Thy grace, and ever remain in the number of Thy faithful and elect children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then the Priest shall say to some one that is present,*

Name this Child.

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¶ *And then naming it after them, he shall pour Water upon it, saying:*

N. I baptize thee In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

¶ *Then all kneeling down, the Minister shall give thanks unto God, and say,*

WE yield Thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, that it hath pleased Thee to regenerate *this Infant* with Thy Holy Spirit, to receive *him* for Thine own *Child* by adoption, and to incorporate *him* into Thy holy Church. And we humbly beseech Thee to grant, that as *he* is now made partaker of the death of Thy Son, so *he* may be also of His resurrection; and that finally with the residue of Thy Saints, *he* may inherit Thine everlasting kingdom; through the same Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *And then he shall add:*

DEARLY beloved, ye are to understand that this Child is lawfully and sufficiently baptized, and ought not to be baptized again. Yet, nevertheless, if the Child do afterwards live, it is expedient that it be brought into the Church, in order that it may be received as one of the flock of true Christian people.

THE COMMUNION OF THE SICK.

¶ *If the sick person be not able to come to the Church, and yet is desirous to receive the Communion in his house; then he must give timely notice to the Curate, signifying also how many there are to communicate with him, (which shall be three, or two at the least,) and having a convenient place*

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in the sick man's house, with all things necessary so prepared, that the Curate may reverently minister, he shall there celebrate the Holy Communion, beginning with the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel, here following.

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY, everliving God, Maker of mankind, Who dost correct those whom Thou dost love, and chastise every one whom Thou dost receive; We beseech Thee to have mercy upon this Thy servant visited with Thine hand, and to grant that *he* may take *his* sickness patiently, and recover *his* bodily health, (if it be Thy gracious will); and whensoever *his* soul shall depart from the body, it may be without spot presented unto Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Epistle. Heb. xii. 5.

MY son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him. For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth; and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.

The Gospel. St. John v. 24.

VERILY, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

¶ *After which the Priest shall proceed according to the form before prescribed for the Holy Communion, beginning at these words:*

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YE that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in His holy ways; draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

¶ *The General Confession by both Minister and people, all kneeling.*

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against Thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please Thee in newness of life, To the honour and glory of Thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ *Then shall the Priest (or the Bishop, being present) stand up, and turning himself to the people, pronounce this Absolution.*

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, Who of His great mercy hath promised forgiveness of

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sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto Him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Priest say,*

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to Him.

COME unto Me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *St. Matt.* xi. 28.

So God loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *St. John* iii. 16.

Hear also what St. Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 *Tim.* i. 15.

Hear also what St. John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He is the propitiation for our sins. 1 *St. John* ii. 1.

¶ *After which the Priest shall proceed, saying,*

Lift up your hearts.
Answer. We lift them up unto the Lord.
Priest. Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
Answer. It is meet and right so to do.

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¶ *Then shall the Priest turn to the Lord's Table, and say,*

IT is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O Lord,* Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

* These words [Holy Father] must be omitted on Trinity Sunday.

¶ *Here shall follow the Proper Preface, according to the time, if there be any specially appointed: or else immediately shall follow,*

THEREFORE with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name; evermore praising Thee, and saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, Heaven and Earth are full of Thy glory. Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High. *Amen.*

Proper Prefaces.

¶ *Upon* CHRISTMAS DAY, *and seven days after.*

BECAUSE Thou didst give Jesus Christ Thine only Son to be born as at this time for us; Who by the operation of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary His mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin.

¶ *Upon* EASTER DAY, *and seven days after.*

BUT chiefly are we bound to praise Thee for the glorious Resurrection of Thy Son Jesus Christ

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our Lord: for He is the very Paschal Lamb, which was offered for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by His death hath destroyed death and by His rising to life again hath restored to us everlasting life.

¶ *Upon* ASCENSION DAY, *and seven days after.*

THROUGH Thy most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord; Who after His most glorious Resurrection manifestly appeared to all His Apostles, and in their sight ascended up into heaven to prepare a place for us; that where He is thither we might also ascend, and reign with Him in glory.

¶ *Upon* WHITSUNDAY, *and six days after.*

THROUGH Jesus Christ our Lord; according to Whose most true promise, the Holy Ghost came down as at this time from heaven with a sudden great sound, as it had been a mighty wind, in the likeness of fiery tongues, lighting upon the Apostles, to teach them, and to lead them to all truth; giving them both the gift of divers languages, and also boldness with fervent zeal constantly to preach the Gospel unto all nations; whereby we have been brought out of darkness and error into the clear light and true knowledge of Thee and Thy Son Jesus Christ.

¶ *Upon the Feast of* TRINITY *only.*

WHO art one God, one Lord: not one only Person, but three Persons in one Substance. For that which we believe of the Glory of the Father, the

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same we believe of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, without any difference or inequality.

¶ *After each of which Prefaces shall immediately be sung or said,*

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, &c.

¶ *Then shall the Priest, kneeling down at the Lord's Table, say this prayer following.*

WE do not presume to come to this Thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Thy Table. But Thou art the same Lord, Whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the Flesh of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink His Blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by His Body, and our souls washed through His most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us. *Amen.*

¶ *When the Priest, standing before the Table, hath so ordered the Bread and Wine, that he may with the more readiness break the Bread before the people, and take the Cup into his hands, he shall say the Prayer of Consecration, as followeth.*

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ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, Who of Thy tender mercy didst give Thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; Who made there (by His one oblation of Himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in His holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that His precious death, until His coming again; Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech Thee; and grant that we receiving these Thy creatures of bread and wine, according to Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of His death and passion, may be partakers of His most

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blessed Body and Blood; Who, in the same night that He was betrayed, [a] took Bread; and, when He had given thanks, [b] He brake it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, Take, eat, [c] this is My Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of Me. Likewise after supper He [d] took the Cup; and, when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this [e] is My Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of Me. *Amen.*

[a] *Here the Priest is to take the Paten into his hands:*

[b] *And here to break the Bread:*

[c] *And here to lay his hand upon all the Bread.*

[d] *Here he is to take the Cup into his hand.*

[e] *And here to lay his hand upon every vessel (be it Chalice or Flagon) in which there is any Wine to be consecrated.*

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¶ *Then shall the Priest, first receive the Communion himself, and after minister unto them that are appointed to communicate with the sick, and last of all to the sick person. And when he delivereth the Bread to any one, he shall say,*

THE Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on Him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving.

¶ *And when he delivereth the Cup he shall say,*

THE Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

¶ *When all have communicated, the Priest shall return to the Lord's Table, and reverently place upon it what remaineth of the consecrated Elements, covering the same with a fair linen cloth.*

¶ *Then shall the Priest say the Lord's Prayer, the people repeating after him every petition.*

OUR Father, Which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

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¶ *After shall be said as followeth.*

O LORD and heavenly Father, we Thy humble servants entirely desire Thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching Thee to grant, that by the merits and death of Thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in His blood, we and all Thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins and all other benefits of His passion. And here we offer and present unto Thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto Thee; humbly beseeching Thee, that all we, who are partakers of this holy Communion, may be fulfilled with Thy grace and heavenly benediction. And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto Thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech Thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by Whom, and with Whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto Thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ *Or this.*

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank Thee, for that Thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of Thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of Thy Son, which is the blessed company of all

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faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of Thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of Thy dear Son. And we most humbly beseech Thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with Thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as Thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to Whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall be said or sung.*

GLORY be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord; Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

¶ *Then the Priest (or Bishop if he be present) shall let them depart with this Blessing.*

THE peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus

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Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

THE ORDER FOR THE VISITATION OF THE SICK.

¶ *When any person is sick, notice shall be given thereof to the Minister of the Parish; who, coming into the sick person's house, shall say,*

PEACE be to this house, and to all that dwell in it.

¶ *When he cometh into the sick man's presence he shall say, kneeling down,*

REMEMBER not, Lord, our iniquities, nor the iniquities of our forefathers: Spare us, good Lord, spare Thy people, whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy most precious Blood, and be not angry with us for ever.

Answer. Spare us, good Lord.

¶ *Then the Minister shall say,*

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR Father, Which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

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Minister. O Lord, save Thy servant;
Answer. Which putteth *his* trust in Thee.
Minister. Send *him* help from Thy holy place;
Answer. And evermore mightily defend *him.*
Minister. Let the enemy have no advantage of *him;*
Answer. Nor the wicked approach to hurt *him.*
Minister. Be unto *him,* O Lord, a strong tower,
Answer. From the face of *his* enemy.
Minister. O Lord, hear our prayers.
Answer. And let our cry come unto Thee.

Minister.

O LORD, look down from heaven, behold, visit, and relieve this Thy servant. Look upon *him* with the eyes of Thy mercy, give *him* comfort and sure confidence in Thee, defend *him* from the danger of the enemy, and keep *him* in perpetual peace and safety; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HEAR us, Almighty and most merciful God and Saviour; extend Thy accustomed goodness to this Thy servant who is grieved with sickness. Sanctify, we beseech Thee, this Thy fatherly correction to *him;* that the sense of *his* weakness may add strength to *his* faith, and seriousness to *his* repentance: That, if it shall be Thy good pleasure to restore *him* to *his* former health, *he* may lead the residue of *his* life in Thy fear, and to Thy glory: or else, give *him* grace so to take Thy visitation, that, after this painful life ended, *he* may dwell with Thee in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Minister exhort the sick person after this form, or other like.*

DEARLY beloved, know this, that Almighty God is the Lord of life and death, and of all things to them pertaining, as youth, strength, health, age,

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weakness and sickness. Wherefore, whatsoever your sickness is, know you certainly, that it is God's visitation. And for what cause soever this sickness is sent unto you; whether it be to try your patience for the example of others, and that your faith may be found in the day of the Lord laudable, glorious, and honourable, to the increase of glory and endless felicity; or else it be sent unto you to correct and amend in you whatsoever doth offend the eyes of your heavenly Father; know you certainly, that if you truly repent you of your sins, and bear your sickness patiently, trusting in God's mercy, for His dear Son Jesus Christ's sake, and render unto Him humble thanks for His fatherly visitation, submitting yourself wholly unto His will, it shall turn to your profit, and help you forward in the right way that leadeth unto everlasting life.

¶ *If the person visited be very sick, then the Curate may end his exhortation in this place, or else proceed.*

TAKE therefore in good part the chastisement of the Lord: For (as Saint Paul saith in the twelfth Chapter to the Hebrews) whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore, we have had fathers of our flesh, which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness. These words, good *brother*, are written in holy Scripture for our comfort and instruction; that we should patiently, and with thanksgiving,

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bear our heavenly Father's correction, whensoever by any manner of adversity it shall please His gracious goodness to visit us. And there should be no greater comfort to Christian persons, than to be made like unto Christ, by suffering patiently adversities, troubles, and sicknesses. For He Himself went not up to joy, but first He suffered pain; He entered not into His glory before He was crucified. So truly our way to eternal joy is to suffer here with Christ; and our door to enter into eternal life is gladly to die with Christ; that we may rise again from death, and dwell with Him in everlasting life. Now therefore, taking your sickness, which is thus profitable for you, patiently, I exhort you, in the Name of God, to remember the profession which you made unto God in your Baptism. And forasmuch as after this life there is an account to be given unto the righteous Judge, by Whom all must be judged, without respect of persons, I require you to examine yourself and your estate, both toward God and man; so that, accusing and condemning yourself for your own faults, you may find mercy at our heavenly Father's hand for Christ's sake, and not be accused and condemned in that fearful judgment. Therefore I shall rehearse to you the Articles of our Faith, that you may know whether you do believe as a Christian man should, or no.

¶ *Here the Minister shall rehearse the Articles of the Faith, saying thus,*

DOST thou believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?

And in Jesus Christ His only-begotten Son our Lord? And that He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; that He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; that He went down into hell, and also did rise again

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the third day; that He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and from thence shall come again at the end of the world, to judge the quick and the dead?

And dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholick Church; the Communion of Saints; the Remission of sins; the Resurrection of the flesh; and everlasting life after death?

¶ *The sick person shall answer,*

All this I steadfastly believe.

¶ *Then shall the Minister examine whether he repent him truly of his sins, and be in charity with all the world; exhorting him to forgive, from the bottom of his heart, all persons that have offended him; and if he hath offended any other, to ask them forgiveness; and where he hath done injury or wrong to any man, that he make amends to the uttermost of his power. And if he hath not before disposed of his goods, let him then be admonished to make his Will, and to declare his Debts, what he oweth, and what is owing unto him; for the better discharging of his conscience, and the quietness of his Executors. But men should often be put in remembrance to take order for the settling of their temporal estates, whilst they are in health.*

¶ *These words before rehearsed may be said before the Minister begin his Prayer, as he shall see cause.*

¶ *The Minister should not omit earnestly to move such sick persons as are of ability to be liberal to the poor.*

¶ *Here shall the sick person be moved to make a special Confession of his sins, if he feel his conscience troubled with any weighty matter. After which Confession, the Priest shall absolve him (if he humbly and heartily desire it) after this sort.*

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OUR Lord Jesus Christ, who hath left power to His Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in Him, of His great mercy forgive thee thine offences: And by His authority committed to me, I absolve thee from all thy sins, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

¶ *And then the Priest shall say the Collect following.*

Let us pray.

O MOST merciful God, Who, according to the multitude of Thy mercies, dost so put away the sins of those who truly repent, that Thou rememberest them no more; Open Thine eye of mercy upon this Thy servant, who most earnestly desireth pardon and forgiveness. Renew in *him*, most loving Father, whatsoever hath been decayed by the fraud and malice of the devil, or by *his* own carnal will and frailness; preserve and continue this sick member in the unity of the Church; consider *his* contrition, accept *his* tears, asswage *his* pain, as shall seem to Thee most expedient for *him*. And forasmuch as *he* putteth *his* full trust only in Thy mercy, impute not unto *him his* former sins, but strengthen *him* with Thy blessed Spirit; and, when Thou art pleased to take *him* hence, take *him* unto Thy favour, through the merits of Thy most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Minister say this Psalm.*

Psalm lxxi.

IN Thee, O Lord, have I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion: but rid me, and deliver me in Thy righteousness; incline Thine ear unto me, and save me. Be Thou my strong hold, whereunto I may alway resort: Thou hast promised to

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help me; for Thou art my house of defence, and my castle. Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the ungodly: out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man. For Thou, O Lord God, art the thing that I long for: Thou art my hope, even from my youth. Through Thee have I been holden up ever since I was born: Thou art He that took me out of my mother's womb; my praise shall be always of Thee. I am become as it were a monster unto many: but my sure trust is in Thee. O let my mouth be filled with Thy praise: that I may sing of Thy glory and honour all the day long. Cast me not away in the time of age: forsake me not when my strength faileth me. For mine enemies speak against me, and they that lay wait for my soul take their counsel together, saying: God hath forsaken him; persecute him, and take him, for there is none to deliver him. Go not far from me, O God: my God, haste Thee to help me. Let them be confounded and perish that are against my soul: let them be covered with shame and dishonour that seek to do me evil. As for me, I will patiently abide alway: and will praise Thee more and more. My mouth shall daily speak of Thy righteousness and salvation: for I know no end thereof. I will go forth in the strength of the Lord God: and will make mention of Thy righteousness only. Thou, O God, hast taught me from my youth up until now: therefore will I tell of Thy wondrous works. Forsake me not, O God, in mine old age, when I am gray-headed: until I have shewed Thy strength unto this generation, and Thy power to all them that are yet for to come. Thy righteousness, O God, is very high, and great things are they that Thou hast done: O God, who is like unto Thee?

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

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¶ *Adding this.*

O SAVIOUR of the world, Who by Thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us, Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

¶ *Then shall the Minister say,*

THE Almighty Lord, Who is a most strong tower to all them that put their trust in Him, to Whom all things in heaven, in earth, and under the earth, do bow and obey, be now and evermore thy defence; and make thee know and feel, that there is none other Name under heaven given to man, in whom, and through whom, thou mayest receive health and salvation, but only the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

¶ *And after that shall say,*

UNTO God's gracious mercy and protection we commit thee. The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace, both now and evermore. *Amen.*

A Prayer for a sick child.

O ALMIGHTY God, and merciful Father, to Whom alone belong the issues of life and death; Look down from heaven, we humbly beseech Thee, with the eyes of mercy upon this child now lying upon the bed of sickness: Visit *him*, O Lord, with Thy salvation; deliver *him* in Thy good appointed time from *his* bodily pain, and save *his* soul for Thy mercies' sake: That, if it shall be Thy pleasure to prolong *his* days here on earth, *he* may live to Thee, and be an instrument of Thy glory, by serving Thee faithfully, and doing good in *his* generation; or else

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receive *him* into those heavenly habitations, where the souls of them that sleep in the Lord Jesus enjoy perpetual rest and felicity. Grant this, O Lord, for Thy mercies' sake, in the same Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

A Prayer for a sick person, when there appeareth small hope of recovery.

O FATHER of mercies, and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need; We fly unto Thee for succour in behalf of this Thy servant, here lying under Thy hand in great weakness of body. Look graciously upon *him*, O Lord; and the more the outward man decayeth, strengthen *him*, we beseech Thee, so much the more continually with Thy grace and holy Spirit in the inner man. Give *him* unfeigned repentance for all the errors of *his* life past, and steadfast faith in Thy Son Jesus; that *his* sins may be done away by Thy mercy, and *his* pardon sealed in heaven, before *he* go hence, and be no more seen. We know, O Lord, that there is no word impossible with Thee; and that, if Thou wilt, Thou canst even yet raise *him* up, and grant *him* a longer continuance amongst us: Yet, forasmuch as in all appearance the time of *his* dissolution draweth near, so fit and prepare *him*, we beseech Thee, against the hour of death, that after *his* departure hence in peace, and in Thy favour, *his* soul may be received into Thine everlasting kingdom, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, Thine only Son, our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

A commendatory Prayer for a sick person at the point of departure.

O ALMIGHTY God, with Whom do live the spirits of just men made perfect, after they are delivered from their earthly prisons; We humbly commend the

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soul of this Thy servant, our dear *brother*, into Thy hands, as into the hands of a faithful Creator, and most merciful Saviour; most humbly beseeching Thee, that it may be precious in Thy sight. Wash it, we pray Thee, in the blood of that immaculate Lamb, that was slain to take away the sins of the world; that whatsoever defilements it may have contracted in the midst of this miserable and naughty world, through the lusts of the flesh, or the wiles of Satan, being purged and done away, it may be presented pure and without spot before Thee. And teach us who survive, in this and other like daily spectacles of mortality, to see how frail and uncertain our own condition is; and so to number our days, that we may seriously apply our hearts to that holy and heavenly wisdom, whilst we live here, which may in the end bring us to life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ Thine only Son our Lord.

A Prayer for persons troubled in mind or in conscience.

O BLESSED Lord, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comforts; We beseech Thee, look down in pity and compassion upon this Thy afflicted servant. Thou writest bitter things against *him*, and makest *him* to possess *his* former iniquities; Thy wrath lieth hard upon *him* and *his* soul is full of trouble: But, O merciful God, who hast written Thy holy Word for our learning, that we, through patience and comfort of Thy holy Scriptures, might have hope; give *him* a right understanding of *himself*, and of Thy threats and promises; that *he* may neither cast away *his* confidence in Thee, nor place it any where but in Thee. Give *him* strength against all *his* temptations, and heal all *his* distempers. Break not the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax. Shut not up Thy tender mercies in displeasure: but make *him* to hear of joy and gladness, that the bones which Thou hast

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broken may rejoice. Deliver *him* from fear of the enemy, and lift up the light of Thy countenance upon *him*, and give *him* peace, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Additional Offices.

GENERAL OFFICE FOR THE SICK. (*)

Peace be, &c.

¶ *Kneeling, or if need be, standing.*

LOOK down, O Lord, we beseech Thee, upon this household, drive away all snares of the enemy, send Thine Angel of peace to guard and preserve it in peace and safety; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray.

Minister. Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, &c. Lord, &c. Our Father, &c.

Minister. Our help is in the Name of the Lord;
Answer. Who hath made heaven and earth.
M. O God, make speed to save us.
A. O Lord, make haste to help us.
M. O Lord, save Thy servant;
A. Who putteth *his* trust in Thee.
M. O Lord, hear our prayers;
A. And let our cry come unto Thee.

ALMIGHTY God, Who didst visit in Thy mercy Peter's wife's mother, restore to *his* former health this Thine afflicted servant, that *he* may be able to give thanks in the Courts of Thy House, and say, "the Lord hath chastened me and corrected me, but He hath not given me over unto death." Yet Thou, O Lord, knowest what is best for *him.* Give grace

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unto this Thy servant to say, "Not my will but Thine be done." "Heal my soul for I have sinned against Thee." Teach *him* so to number *his* days that *he* may apply *his* heart unto wisdom. Increase *his* faith O Lord, and deepen *his* repentance, that so *he* may be prepared for *his* great change, whenever Thou shalt be pleased to call *him* to Thyself. Grant this, O Saviour of the world, Who with the Father and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth One God, world without end. *Amen.*

Notes on Creed.

"DOST thou believe . . . earth?" Father, loving, knows thoughts, hears words, sees works. "And in Jesus . . . Lord?" Saviour, anointed, to be Prophet, Priest, King. Do you receive Him as such? "Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost," therefore *God*, able to save. "Born of the Virgin Mary," therefore *man*, able to sympathise. "Suffered . . . into hell," hell, place of good souls. How lost is man to require all this! Do you place all your hopes in Christ's sufferings and death? "The third day . . . dead," therefore He can raise your soul and body from hell. "He ascended . . . Almighty," therefore He prays now for you. Set your heart above, for He has gone to prepare a place for you. "From thence . . . dead," quick *i.e.* living. If we judge ourselves, examine ourselves, shall not be judged. "Dost thou believe . . . Holy Ghost?" *i.e.* Holy Spirit. "The Holy Catholic Church," called out of world to *be* holy, yet not all holy, for good and bad in it. Are you therefore trying to be holy? and to this end consider, 1st Privilege, "Communion of Saints," repentant striving Christians have fellowship with God, Angels, Saints, living and departed. 2nd Privilege, "Forgiveness of sins," through Christ conveyed to penitent by Absolution, Sacraments, Ordinances, means of Grace. 3rd and 4th Privileges,

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"Resurrection of body . . . Life everlasting," if we repent we need not fear judgment, but can look for Resurrection, and life of world to come, saying with St. John, "even so, come, Lord Jesus."

¶ *It will often be necessary for the Priest not merely to arouse in the sick person the sense of sin generally, but also to awaken his conscience to special sins.*

Notes on Commandments.

JESUS saith, "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets; I am not come to destroy but to fulfil." Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, soul, mind; neighbour as thyself.

First four commandments, loved, self not thought of, account at last day; discontented, unthankful, omitted prayer, wandered in prayer, neglected Church, not knelt in Church, neglected Holy Communion, or gone without self-examination, not given of substance to needy of soul or body. *Last six commandments:* 5th, *e. g.*, FORBIDS parents neglecting their children. ENJOINS parents to bring up children in Scripture truth as taught by Church. Wife to love and try to please husband, *vice versâ*. 6th. Forbids hatred, malice, revenge, spitefulness, vindictiveness, sullenness, envy, anger, pride. Enjoins love, patience, humility, return good for evil, pray for those who have injured us. 7th. Forbids over-eating, drinking, unchaste thoughts. Enjoins fasting, prayer. 8th. Forbids dishonesty, double-dealing, wronging. Enjoins to do good to all, help in good works, visit sick, needy. 9th. Forbids taking pleasure in evil reports of any, though true, tale-bearing, tattling from house to house, busy-body. Enjoins to speak well of all, or be silent. 10th. Forbids to be discontented day by day with what God gives, over-anxious about

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things even necessary, one thing needful. Enjoins to covet best gifts of Holy Spirit.

Finally.

ARE you ready to forgive any that have offended or injured you? and if you have offended or injured any, are you ready to ask their forgiveness, and to make amends to the utmost of your power? remembering our Lord's words, "If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

O HEAVENLY Father, Who through Thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, hast willed that the gate of mercy should stand open to the penitent, we humbly beseech Thee graciously to protect this Thy servant, that *he*, bewailing *his* past sins, may through Thy grace follow steadfastly the path of Thy holy commandments, and through all temptations continually serve Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Adapted from "Bright's Collects.")

O Saviour of the world, &c. ¶ *From the concluding portion of the Visitation of the Sick.* *See page* 28.

GENERAL OFFICE. ([b])

O GOD the Father, of heaven: have mercy upon us miserable sinners. O God the Son, Redeemer of the world: have mercy, &c. O God the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son: have mercy upon, &c. O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three Persons and one God: have mercy, &c.

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Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, &c.
Lord, &c.
Our help is in the Name of the Lord, &c. ¶ *As in preceding Office.* *See page* 31.

ALMIGHTY Father, Eternal God, Lord of life and death, hear, as Thou hast promised, our prayer of faith in behalf of this Thy servant, [and restore *him* to *his* former health if it be Thy gracious will; but above all] refresh *his* soul which Thou hast created, that with humility and resignation it may accept whatsoever Thou mayest think fit to send it; and being healed by thy chastisement it may be received at last into Thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Adapted from "Bright's Collects" and "the old Catholic Ritual.")

Or the Collect "Almighty, ever living God, Maker of mankind," &c. ¶ *See "The Communion of the Sick," page* 10.

DOST thou believe? &c. Do you believe that God as a loving Father watches over you day by day? That in His love He sent His only Son into the world to die for you, and that He gives you His Holy Spirit to enable you to love and obey Him? Do you yourself confess that you have not loved and obeyed Him as truly as you might have done? Let me read to you the Heads of duty to God and to your Neighbour, as summed up in the Prayer Book. My duty towards God is to believe in Him, to fear Him, and to love Him, with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength; to worship Him, to give Him thanks, to put my whole trust in Him, to call upon Him, to honour His holy Name and His Word, and to serve Him

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truly all the days of my life. My duty towards my Neighbour is to love him as myself, and to do to all men, as I would they should do unto me; to love, honour, and succour my father and mother; to honour and obey the Queen, and all that are put in authority under her . . . . to hurt nobody by word nor deed; to be true and just in all my dealing; to bear no malice nor hatred in my heart; to keep my hands from picking and stealing, and my tongue from evil-speaking, lying, and slandering; to keep my body in temperance, soberness and chastity: Not to covet nor desire other men's goods; but to learn and labour truly to get mine own living, and to do my duty in that state of life, unto which it shall please God to call me.

Then, "Are you ready to forgive," &c., followed by "O heavenly Father," as in preceding Office (*see page* 34), finishing as before with "O Saviour of the world," &c. *See page* 28.

Church Privileges.

O LORD Jesu Christ, Who hast appointed for men the blessings and solemnities of Thy worship, and yet hast been pleased to deny Thy servant the privileges of the solemn assembly in Church; Grant that though absent *he* may be strengthened by the prayers of the faithful as though *he* were present with them, and that the ministry of *his* spiritual guide may be effectual to *his* soul's health. Hear all the prayers of *his* friends for *him* everywhere, and send Thy good Spirit to be *his* Comforter, and Thy good Angels to be *his* Guardians. Hear us for Thy mercies' sake, O blessed Lord, Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest one God world without end. *Amen.*

(From the "Visitatio Infirmorum.")

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Poverty.

O MERCIFUL Lord, Who for our sakes didst send Thine only Son from heaven to become poor that we through His poverty might be made rich, Grant to this Thy servant in *his* low estate a contented mind, Guard *him* from all covetous thoughts, Cause *him* to love Thee and Thy truth above all things, and to covet earnestly the best gifts of Thy grace: that so at last *he* may possess the true riches of Thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Purity.

O LORD God, Father Almighty, purify the secrets of our hearts, and mercifully wash away all the stains of sin, that being cleansed by Thy grace we may without fear await the terrible coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who with Thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth ever one God world without end. *Amen.*

(Adapted from "Bright's Collects.")

Lord's Prayer expanded.

O*UR Father*, *Which art in heaven*, we lift up our heart unto Thee, and with due submission and thankfulness receive Thy fatherly correction, praying that *Thy Name* may *be hallowed* by us, and *Thy kingdom* of Grace *come* into our hearts and prepare us for Thy Kingdom of Glory. May *Thy will be done in earth* by us, who suffer, *as it is in heaven* by those who yield their will to Thine. Our eyes wait upon Thee, O Lord, and Thou Who feedest the fowls of the air, and clothest the lilies of the field, wilt *give us day by day our daily bread*, all that

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is needful for our bodies, filling our souls with joy and gladness. *And forgive us*, O Lord, *our trespasses* against Thee, our murmuring, impatient, and rebellious spirit; *as we forgive them that trespass against us*, praying Thee to turn their hearts, and to save them. *And lead us not into temptation* in this our weakness above that we are able to bear, *but deliver us from evil*, from all dangers of soul and body. *For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory*; Thou, O heavenly Father, canst do for us above all that we can ask or think, *for ever and ever. Amen.*

For the Evening.

TARRY Thou with us, O Lord, for it is towards evening and the day is far spent. As the evening draweth nigh so doth the evening of our life; make it peaceful to us. Let Thy strength be made perfect in our weakness. Darkness is at hand, so is death. Prepare us for the great day of judgment. As we add days to our days, so we add sin to sin, but, O Thou Who art the Saviour of sinners, we turn to Thee with all our hearts. Jesus Christ, joyful light of the holy glory of the Father, lighten our eyes that we sleep not in death. Into Thy hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves, our spirit, soul, and body. Preserve our lying down and our rising up from this time for evermore; we will lay us down in peace, and take our rest, for it is Thou, Lord, only, that makest us dwell in safety.

(Partly from Bishop Andrewes.)

¶ *On subsequent visits (the Creed and Commandments having been explained) the following may be used.*

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Readings or Meditations.

ORDINARY OCCASIONS OF SICKNESS.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

The Epistle. Phil. iv.

REJOICE in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Thoughts.

LET me consider the circumstances under which this Epistle was written. St. Paul when he wrote it was a prisoner awaiting his sentence. He knew that at any moment he might be summoned forth to death. Yet he himself was able to rejoice in the Lord, and bid others do the same. I. From this I may learn that rejoicing in the Lord is something very different from the ordinary rejoicing of the worldly; the worldly rejoice in riches, and honour, and pleasures, and all the advantages for self which can be obtained by their acquisition. But can the selfish enjoyment of these things give peace to the mind? Can it help me in the hour of death, or in the awful day of judgment? Oh, let me not be too careful about the body, as though the kingdom of God were only meat and drink. Let me learn more and more to rest in the Lord, and to rejoice in Him, and in the blessed promises of the Gospel. He alone can support me when all other supports fail. II. "Let your moderation," says the Apostle, "be known unto all men." Alas! how weak an example have I been

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to others of patience, meekness, and self-control, under the various trials that the Lord is now sending me, in order that I may suffer as a Christian, and let my light shine before others! III. "The Lord is at hand." Yes, the other world is always very close to me, and in sickness it seems to come nearer than ever. May I be more trustful in my heavenly Father, look up to Him more steadily with the eye of faith, lean more upon Him in prayer, and the peace of God will then assuredly be mine.

Psalm xxxiii.

REJOICE in the Lord, O ye righteous : for it becometh well the just to be thankful. Praise the Lord with harp : sing praises unto Him with the lute, and instrument of ten strings. Sing unto the Lord a new song : sing praises lustily unto Him with a good courage. For the word of the Lord is true : and all His works are faithful. He loveth righteousness and judgment : the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him : and upon them that put their trust in His mercy; to deliver their soul from death : and to feed them in the time of dearth. Our soul hath patiently tarried for the Lord : for He is our help, and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in Him : because we have hoped in His holy Name. Let Thy merciful kindness, O Lord, be upon us : like as we do put our trust in Thee.

Glory be, &c.

May I believe more and more in the goodness of the Lord, that He doeth all things well, though some things are at times hard for flesh and blood to understand. May I wait patiently for the Lord; then I shall learn to rejoice in Him, and sing that new song which only His redeemed in heaven know to perfection. (Rev. xiv. 3.)

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Collect.

O LORD, raise up (we pray Thee) Thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, Thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of Thy Son our Lord, to Whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost be honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

HYMN II.

ST. PHILIP AND ST. JAMES.

The Gospel. St. John xiv.

AND Jesus said unto His disciples, Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you: and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto Him, Lord, we know not whither Thou goest, and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me. If ye had known Me, ye should have known My Father also: and from henceforth ye know Him, and have seen Him. Philip saith unto Him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself; but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works. Believe Me, that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; or else believe Me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily I say unto you,

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he that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in My Name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My Name, I will do it.

Thoughts.

THERE are times when the believer is apt to be despondent and cast down, and that is especially the case in sickness when the mind is unable to occupy itself in its usual pursuits, but is thrown in much upon itself. Let me consider the consolation Christ affords to one in such a state. He has a mansion for him in heaven, *i.e.*, a home, a place of rest and peace which he shall never lose. Such a place Christ is now preparing for me, unworthy though I am of it; nor does He leave me in doubt and uncertainty about finding that home; for He Himself will visit this earth again, in order to fetch me to that home. I have but to believe truly in Him, and trust in Him, as the Lord Almighty to save, and I need not fear. Full and free indeed are the promises to the believer. One promise is, he shall do greater works even than Christ Himself did on earth. For Christ by His death and resurrection has obtained for Himself all power in heaven and in earth, and I, being a member of His body, and strengthened by His Holy Spirit, am made capable of doing all things. Another promise is, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My Name, I will do it. Yes, and my heavenly Father will answer my prayer as a kind Father Who loves me; and therefore, if I ask anything hurtful to my soul, He will in His love answer my prayer by refusing to give me that hurtful thing. May these gracious promises comfort me as they were intended to comfort the disciples.

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Psalm lxv.

THOU, O God, art praised in Sion : and unto Thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem. Thou that hearest the prayer : unto Thee shall all flesh come. My misdeeds prevail against me: O be Thou merciful unto our sins. Blessed is the man, whom Thou choosest, and receivest unto Thee: he shall dwell in Thy court, and shall be satisfied with the pleasures of Thy house, even of Thy holy temple. Thou shalt shew us wonderful things in Thy righteousness, O God of our salvation : Thou that art the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of them that remain in the broad sea. Who in His strength setteth fast the mountains: and is girded about with power. Who stilleth the raging of the sea : and the noise of His waves, and the madness of the people. They also that dwell in the uttermost parts of the earth shall be afraid at Thy tokens : Thou that makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to praise Thee. Thou visitest the earth, and blessest it: Thou makest it very plenteous. The river of God is full of water : Thou preparest their corn, for so Thou providest for the earth. Thou waterest her furrows, Thou sendest rain into the little valleys thereof: Thou makest it soft with the drops of rain, and blessest the increase of it. Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness : and Thy clouds drop fatness. They shall drop upon the dwellings of the wilderness : and the little hills shall rejoice on every side. The folds shall be full of sheep : the valleys also shall stand so thick with corn, that they shall laugh and sing.

Here again we see the love of Jesus shown especially in His hearing prayer, and providing in His Church all spiritual blessings for His people. Spiritual blessings indeed so abundant, that like an overflowing river they are ever spreading forth on every

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The more completely the love of Jesus takes possession of the hearts of Christ's people, so much the more do they influence the hearts of heathen and unbelievers, and make them also rejoice in the goodness of the Lord.

Collect.

O ALMIGHTY God, Who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto Thy people, that they may love the thing which Thou commandest, and desire that which Thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMN VIII.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

The Epistle. Ephes. vi.

MY brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth; and having on the breast-plate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God: praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with

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all perseverance, and supplication for all saints; and for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the Gospel, for which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Thoughts.

LIFE is elsewhere compared by St. Paul to a race; here it is likened to a warfare. Have I sufficiently realised this warfare in which as a Christian it is my lot to live?—a warfare that has to be carried on by me not against my fellow-creatures, but against the devil himself, and the superhuman powers which he has at his command. These powers, however, I need not fear if only I will trust in the Lord, and accept the means for my preservation which He is ever ready to give me. The Apostle compares these means of grace to the complete armour of a soldier in ancient times. They may be briefly described as these. 1. Sincerity of purpose, and singleness of aim; keeping my heart true to the Lord at all times. 2. Care to avoid the hollow peace which the world offers, and to seek the true peace from above. This will especially preserve me in a state of preparation for the special trials that may come upon me at any moment. But in all these my efforts I must not rely on my own strength, but ever take heed that, 3. my faith and hope rests in God; and to this end I must be, 4. constant in reading the Scriptures; 5. constant in watching and prayer. Thus will the Lord supply all my spiritual needs. Satan may at times take advantage of my weak state to suggest to my mind doubtful thoughts about my religion, despairing and despondent thoughts of God and His goodness, and a pleasurable recollection of former sins; but against all these trials, defended by heavenly armour, I shall be more than conqueror through Him that loveth me.

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Psalm cxxxvi.

O GIVE thanks unto the Lord, for He is gracious : and His mercy endureth for ever. O give thanks unto the God of all gods : for His mercy endureth for ever. O thank the Lord of all lords : for His mercy endureth for ever. Who only doeth great wonders : for His mercy endureth for ever. Who by His excellent wisdom made the heavens : for His mercy endureth for ever. Who laid out the earth above the waters : for His mercy endureth for ever. Who remembered us when we were in trouble : for His mercy endureth for ever. And hath delivered us from our enemies : for His mercy endureth for ever. Who giveth food to all flesh : for His mercy endureth for ever. O give thanks unto the God of heaven : for His mercy endureth for ever. O give thanks unto the Lord of lords : for His mercy endureth for ever.

May I ever be mindful of the love and power of my heavenly Father; that He made this world for our enjoyment; and above all, that He is preparing for His people a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. No power of evil can stand against Him. He will deliver me from all the enemies of my soul, therefore will I give thanks unto Him for ever.

Collect. Second Matins.

O GOD, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; Defend us Thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in Thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMN III. OR XI.

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SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE EASTER.

The Epistle. Phil. ii.

Subject:—Christ an Example to us of Patience and Humility.

LET this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus : Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every Name; that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Psalm xxii.

MY God, my God, look upon me; why hast Thou forsaken me : and art so far from my health, and from the words of my complaint? O my God, I cry in the daytime, but Thou hearest not : and in the night-season also I take no rest. And Thou continuest holy : O Thou worship of Israel. Our fathers hoped in Thee : they trusted in Thee, and Thou didst deliver them. They called upon Thee, and were holpen : they put their trust in Thee, and were not confounded. But as for me I am a worm, and no man : a very scorn of men, and the out-cast of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn : they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying, He trusted in God, that He would deliver him : let Him deliver him, if He will have him. But Thou art He that took me out of my mother's womb : Thou wast my hope, when I

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hanged yet upon my mother's breasts. I have been left unto Thee ever since I was born : Thou art my God even from my mother's womb. O go not from me, for trouble is hard at hand : and there is none to help me. Many oxen are come about me : fat bulls of Basan close me in on every side. They gape upon me with their mouths : as it were a ramping and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint : my heart also in the midst of my body is even like melting wax. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaveth to my gums : and Thou shalt bring me into the dust of death. For many dogs are come about me : and the council of the wicked layeth siege against me. They pierced my hands and my feet ; I may tell all my bones : they stand staring and looking upon me. They part my garments among them : and cast lots upon my vesture. But be not Thou far from me, O Lord : Thou art my succour, haste Thee to help me.

Collect. Sunday next before Easter.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who, of Thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent Thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, to take upon Him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of His great humility ; Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of His patience, and also be made partakers of His resurrection ; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

WEDNESDAY BEFORE EASTER.

From the Gospel. St. Luke xxii.

Subject :—Christ an Example to us during His Agony in the Garden, and during His betrayal by Judas and denial by St. Peter.

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AND He came out, and went, as He was wont, to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples also followed Him. And when He was at the place, He said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down and prayed, saying, Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me: nevertheless, not My will, but Thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly; and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when He rose up from prayer, and was come to His disciples, He found them sleeping for sorrow, and said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. And while He yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss Him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of Man with a kiss? When they which were about Him saw what would follow, they said unto Him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword? And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And He touched his ear, and healed him. Then Jesus said unto the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the elders who were come to Him, Be ye come out as against a thief, with swords and staves? When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against Me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness. Then took they Him, and led Him, and brought Him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off. And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them. But a certain maid beheld him, as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with Him. And he denied Him, saying, Woman, I know Him not. And after a little while another saw him,

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and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not. And about the space of one hour after, another confidently affirmed, saying, of a truth this fellow also was with Him: for he is a Galilean. And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter; and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny Me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

Psalm lv.

HEAR my prayer, O God: and hide not Thyself from my petition. Take heed unto me, and hear me: how I mourn in my prayer, and am vexed. The enemy crieth so, and the ungodly cometh on so fast: for they are minded to do me some mischief; so maliciously are they set against me. My heart is disquieted within me: and the fear of death is fallen upon me. Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me: and an horrible dread hath overwhelmed me. And I said, O that I had wings like a dove: for then would I flee away, and be at rest. Lo, then would I get me away far off: and remain in the wilderness. I would make haste to escape: because of the stormy wind and tempest. Destroy their tongues, O Lord, and divide them: for I have spied unrighteousness and strife in the city. Day and night they go about within the walls thereof: mischief also and sorrow are in the midst of it. Wickedness is therein: deceit and guile go not out of their streets. For it is not an open enemy, that hath done me this dishonour: for then I could have borne it. Neither was it mine adversary, that did magnify himself against me: for then peradventure I would have hid myself from him. But it was even thou, my companion:

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my guide, and mine own familiar friend. We took sweet counsel together : and walked in the house of God as friends. The words of his mouth were softer than butter, having war in his heart : his words were smoother than oil, and yet be they very swords. O cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall nourish thee : and shall not suffer the righteous to fall for ever. And as for them : Thou, O God, shalt bring them into the pit of destruction. The blood-thirsty and deceitful men shall not live out half their days : nevertheless, my trust shall be in Thee, O Lord.

Collect. Sunday next before Easter. *See page* 48.

THURSDAY BEFORE EASTER.

From the Gospel. St. Luke xxiii.

Subject:—Christ an Example to us when before Herod and Pontius Pilate.

THE whole multitude of them arose, and led Him unto Pilate. And they began to accuse Him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Cæsar, saying, That He Himself is Christ a King. And Pilate asked Him, saying, Art Thou the King of the Jews? And He answeréd him, and said, Thou sayest it. Then said Pilate to the chief priests, and to the people, I find no fault in this Man. And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place. When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the Man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that He belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who himself was also at Jerusalem at that time. And when Herod saw Jesus he was exceeding glad ; for he was desirous to see Him of a long season, because he had heard many things of Him :

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and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by Him. Then he questioned with Him in many words; but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. And Herod with his men of war set Him at nought, and mocked Him, and arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him again to Pilate. And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together; for before they were at enmity between themselves. And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, and the rulers, and the people, said unto them, Ye have brought this Man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and behold, I, having examined Him before you, have found no fault in this Man touching those things whereof ye accuse Him: No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto Him. I will therefore chastise Him, and release Him. For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast. And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this Man, and release unto us Barabbas: (who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison). Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spake again to them. But they cried, saying, Crucify Him, crucify Him. And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath He done? I have found no cause of death in Him: I will therefore chastise Him, and let Him go. And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that He might be crucified: and the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed. And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required. And he released unto them him that for sedition and murder was cast into prison, whom they had desired; but he delivered Jesus to their will.

Psalm lxix.

SAVE me, O God: for the waters are come in, even unto my soul. I stick fast in the deep mire, where no ground is: I am come into deep waters,

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so that the floods run over me. I am weary of crying; my throat is dry : my sight faileth me for waiting so long upon my God. They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head : they that are mine enemies, and would destroy me guiltless, are mighty. I paid them the things that I never took : God, Thou knowest my simpleness, and my faults are not hid from Thee. Let not them that trust in Thee, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed for my cause : let not those that seek Thee be confounded through me, O Lord God of Israel. And why? for Thy sake have I suffered reproof : shame hath covered my face. I am become a stranger unto my brethren : even an alien unto my mother's children. For the zeal of Thine house hath even eaten me : and the rebukes of them that rebuked Thee are fallen upon me. I wept, and chastened myself with fasting : and that was turned to my reproof. I put on sackcloth also : and they jested upon me. They that sit in the gate speak against me : and the drunkards make songs upon me. But, Lord, I make my prayer unto Thee : in an acceptable time. Hear me, O God, in the multitude of thy mercy : even in the truth of Thy salvation. Take me out of the mire, that I sink not : O let me be delivered from them that hate me, and out of the deep waters. Let not the water-flood drown me, neither let the deep swallow me up : and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me. Hear me, O Lord, for Thy loving-kindness is comfortable : turn Thee unto me according to the multitude of Thy mercies. And hide not Thy face from Thy servant, for I am in trouble : O haste Thee, and hear me. Draw nigh unto my soul, and save it : O deliver me, because of mine enemies. Thou hast known my reproof, my shame, and my dishonour : mine adversaries are all in Thy sight. Thy rebuke hath broken my heart; I am full of heaviness : I looked for

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some to have pity on me, but there was no man, neither found I any to comfort me. They gave me gall to eat : and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink. As for me, when I am poor and in heaviness : Thy help, O God, shall lift me up. I will praise the Name of God with a song : and magnify it with thanksgiving.

Collect. *See page* 48.

THURSDAY BEFORE EASTER.

From the Gospel. St. Luke xxiii.

Subject :—Christ an Example to us at His Crucifixion.

AND as they led Him away, they laid hold upon one Simon a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the Cross, that he might bear it after Jesus. And there followed Him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented Him. But Jesus, turning unto them, said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for Me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry? And there were also two other, malefactors, led with Him to be put to death. And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him; and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. And they parted His raiment, and cast lots. And the people stood beholding; and the rulers also with them derided Him, saying He saved others; let Him save

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Himself, if He be Christ, the chosen of God. And the soldiers also mocked Him, coming to Him, and offering Him vinegar, and saying, If Thou be the King of the Jews, save Thyself. And a superscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. And one of the malefactors, which were hanged, railed on Him, saying, If Thou be Christ, save Thyself, and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds, but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To-day shalt thou be with Me in paradise. And it was about the sixth hour: and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the vail of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said, Father, into Thy hands I commend My Spirit: and having said thus, He gave up the ghost. Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man. And all the people that came together to that sight, beholding the things that were done, smote their breasts, and returned. And all His acquaintance, and the women that followed Him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things.

Psalm lxxxviii.

O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before Thee: O let my prayer enter into Thy presence, incline Thine ear unto my calling. For my soul is full of trouble: and my life draweth nigh unto hell. I am counted as one of them that go down into the pit: and I have been even as a man that hath no strength. Free among the dead, like

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unto them that are wounded, and lie in the grave : who are out of remembrance, and are cut away from Thy hand. Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit : in a place of darkness, and in the deep. Thine indignation lieth hard upon me : and Thou hast vexed me with all Thy storms. Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me : and made me to be abhorred of them. I am so fast in prison : that I cannot get forth. My sight faileth me for very trouble : Lord, I have called daily upon Thee, I have stretched forth my hands unto Thee. Dost Thou shew wonders among the dead : or shall the dead rise up again, and praise Thee? Shall Thy loving-kindness be shewed in the grave : or Thy faithfulness in destruction? Shall Thy wondrous works be known in the dark : and Thy righteousness in the land where all things are forgotten? Unto Thee have I cried, O Lord : and early shall my prayer come before Thee. Lord, why abhorrest Thou my soul : and hidest Thou Thy face from me? I am in misery, and like unto him that is at the point to die : even from my youth up Thy terrors have I suffered with a troubled mind. Thy wrathful displeasure goeth over me : and the fear of Thee hath undone me. They came round about me daily like water : and compassed me together on every side. My lovers and friends hast Thou put away from me : and hid mine acquaintance out of my sight.

Collect.

ALMIGHTY God, we beseech Thee graciously to behold this Thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross, Who now liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

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HYMN.

GO to dark Gethsemane,
Ye that feel the tempter's power,
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Him to watch and pray.

See Him at the judgment-hall,
Beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;
See Him meekly bearing all;
Love to man His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
Learn of Christ to bear the cross.

Calvary's mournful mountain view;
There the Lord of glory see,
Made a Sacrifice for you,
Dying on the accursed tree;
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn of Jesus how to die. *Amen.*

¶ *The following Readings or Meditations are also adapted for ordinary as well as for special occasions, viz., those on pages* 57, 59, 62, 65, 67, 70, 72, 75, 76, 78, 81, 83, 85, 88, 90, 92, 94, 97, 101, 119.

FOR THE AGED AND INFIRM.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

From the Epistle. Rom. xiii.

AND that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly as in the day; not in rioting and drunken-

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ness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Thoughts.

THE Apostle compares this life to night; and he implies that the condition of a Christian in it is like that of a soldier on a campaign—asleep—disinclined to awake to the dangers of the coming day. Alas! have I not been too long like one asleep, and indifferent to what the Lord would have me to do? and yet awake, busy and active in all that I thought would promote my own happiness and comfort; and this with far too little concern for the wants of others? I may not have been guilty of any great sins, but I have been contented to live on day by day, pre-occupied with the thoughts and cares of this life, and have been as one asleep to the dangers that beset my soul. And now, (in the evening of my life,) my heavenly Father in His love has sent me this affliction, as it were to shake me out of my spiritual torpor, and make me turn to Him more thoroughly, remembering how quickly each day passes away, never to return. Oh! may I each day for the future draw nearer to Him, and be able to say in the words of the hymn:

Here in the body pent,
  Absent from Thee I roam,
Yet nightly pitch my moving tent
  A day's march nearer home.

Psalm xiii.

HOW long wilt Thou forget me, O Lord, for ever: how long wilt Thou hide Thy face from me?

How long shall I seek counsel in my soul, and be so vexed in my heart: how long shall mine ene-

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mies triumph over me? Consider, and hear me, O Lord my God : lighten mine eyes, that I sleep not in death. Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him : for if I be cast down, they that trouble me will rejoice at it. But my trust is in Thy mercy : and my heart is joyful in Thy salvation. I will sing of the Lord, because He hath dealt so lovingly with me : yea, I will praise the Name of the Lord most Highest.

If at times I feel well-nigh overcome with a sense of my past sins, let me not on that account be altogether cast down. God's truest saints of old have sometimes been severely tried by Satan suggesting doubting and despairing thoughts to their mind. Blessed be God, the earnest, heartfelt prayer for aid will ever reach His throne. He will give me all-sufficient strength against my enemies; and He will not suffer me to sleep in death.

Collect.

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious Majesty to judge both the quick and dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through Him who liveth and reigneth, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. *Amen.*

SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION.

From the Epistle. 1 St. Pet. iv.

THE end of all things is at hand, be ye therefore sober and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves, for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

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Thoughts.

I AM taught by St. Peter in this Epistle several valuable lessons. 1. One is Charity. Charity, or Love, covereth sins; takes no pleasure in bringing forward into light the sins of others. May I seek to have more of Christ's love in my heart. How fervent is Christ's love towards sinners. How does He mourn for the sins of His people, and as the wings of the Cherubim covered the mercy-seat, so does Christ long to cover our sins by bringing them under the influence of His all-atoning sacrifice. 2. Another lesson is Sobriety. Sobriety will enable me to keep my mind free from over-anxiety and depression, and to look forward with the eye of faith beyond this world to things unseen. 3. Once more, St. Peter bids me watch unto prayer; and our Lord has a special blessing for those that do so. "Blessed," says He, "are those servants whom the Lord when He cometh shall find watching." Should not I then be especially watchful for the Lord's coming to me at my death, seeing that so many years of my life have already passed away?

Psalm xxxix.

I SAID, I will take heed to my ways: that I offend not in my tongue. I will keep my mouth as it were with a bridle; while the ungodly is in my sight. I held my tongue, and spake nothing: I kept silence, yea, even from good words; but it was pain and grief to me. My heart was hot within me, and while I was thus musing the fire kindled: and at the last I spake with my tongue: Lord, let me know mine end, and the number of my days: that I may be certified how long I have to live. Behold, Thou hast made my days as it were a span long: and mine age is even as nothing in respect of Thee; and verily every man living is alto-

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gether vanity. For man walketh in a vain shadow, and disquieteth himself in vain: he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them. And now, Lord, what is my hope: truly my hope is even in Thee. Deliver me from all mine offences : and make me not a rebuke unto the foolish. I became dumb, and opened not my mouth : for it was Thy doing. Take Thy plague away from me : I am even consumed by the means of Thy heavy hand. When Thou with rebukes dost chasten man for sin, Thou makest his beauty to consume away, like as it were a moth fretting a garment: every man therefore is but vanity. Hear my prayer, O Lord, and with Thine ears consider my calling : hold not Thy peace at my tears. For I am a stranger with Thee: and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. O spare me a little, that I may recover my strength: before I go hence, and be no more seen.

The natural heart of man cannot but dread the thought of death. To be taken away in a moment from those we love, and to be suddenly carried into a new state of existence, a state into which thousands are day by day entering, and from which none can ever return to relate their experiences of that state—this is indeed a trial to flesh and blood. But there is One above Who has Himself voluntarily trodden this path, and He, and He alone, can give us needful strength to pass along it too. In the words of another Psalm we may truly say, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me."

Collect.

O GOD the King of glory, Who hast exalted Thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto Thy kingdom in heaven; We beseech Thee, leave us

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not comfortless; but send to us Thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

HYMN III.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

The Gospel. St. Matt. vi.

NO man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and Mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or what shall we drink? or, wherewithal shall we be clothed? (for after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no

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thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself: sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Thoughts.

WHAT a warning have I here against undue care and anxiety. I cannot seek the Lord heartily, and things of this life heartily too. May I learn to seek more and more the Lord and His righteousness, and so be enabled to realise the truth that all things good and necessary for my body will be bestowed upon me. He Who created our bodies for eternity, shall He not preserve them? As children loving and obeying Him as a kind Father, and casting all our care upon Him, shall He not give us day by day all that He thinks best for us? Oh, let me then compose my thoughts more to prayer and to reading and meditating on the Scriptures! Assuredly the Lord in sending me this weakness of body, is seeking to prepare my soul for His heavenly kingdom.

Psalm xxxvii.

FRET not thyself because of the ungodly: neither be thou envious against the evil doers. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass: and be withered even as the green herb. Put thou thy trust in the Lord, and be doing good: dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thou in the Lord: and He shall give thee thy heart's desire. Commit thy way unto the Lord, and put thy trust in Him: and He shall bring it to pass. He shall make thy righteousness as clear as the light: and thy just dealing as the noon-day. Hold thee still in the Lord, and abide patiently upon Him: but grieve not thyself at him, whose way doth prosper, against the man that doeth after evil counsels. The Lord ordereth a good man's going: and maketh

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his way acceptable to Himself. Though he fall, he shall not be cast away: for the Lord upholdeth him with His hand. I have been young, and now am old: and yet saw I never the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging their bread. The righteous is ever merciful, and lendeth: and his seed is blessed. Flee from evil, and do the thing that is good: and dwell for evermore. For the Lord loveth the thing that is right: He forsaketh not His that be godly, but they are preserved for ever. Keep innocency, and take heed unto the thing that is right: for that shall bring a man peace at the last. As for the transgressors, they shall perish together: and the end of the ungodly is, they shall be rooted out at the last. But the salvation of the righteous cometh of the Lord: who is also their strength in the time of trouble. And the Lord shall stand by them, and save them: He shall deliver them from the ungodly, and shall save them, because they put their trust in Him.

The world at times seems too much for me; the rich and powerful appear to prosper more and more, and to carry all before them. I feel inclined to repine at my lot; but, Lord, enable me to look above this world, and to remember that at the hour of death and at the day of judgment riches of themselves will be of no avail. Strengthen my weak faith so that, keeping innocency, and taking heed unto the thing that is right, I may have peace at last.

Collect.

KEEP, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy Church with Thy perpetual mercy: and, because the frailty of man without Thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by Thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMN III.

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SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

The Gospel. St. Luke xxi.

AND there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. And He spake to them a parable, Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; when they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the Kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled: heaven and earth shall pass away; but My words shall not pass away.

Thoughts.

I HAVE here a description of events just before the coming of Christ. Let me picture it to myself for a moment. Look at that surging mass of human beings, like the waves of the sea tumbling and tossing hither and thither. I look closer and see their wretched faces full of care and anxiety for their treasures—they know not where to place them in the midst of the general wreck of the world; while others, suddenly aroused in the midst of their earthly passions and pleasures, look in vain beneath the hills and the rocks for protection from the wrath of the Lamb; but, while I see this mass of human beings with a horrible dread and terror depicted on their

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countenances looking down in despair, I see at the same time God's people, a comparatively little flock, looking up in hope. They are gazing at something in the heavens. Lo, it is the Cross of Jesus! I see them follow it, and, like a pillar of light, it leads them on to the bright celestial country, far above the valley of the shadow of death.

Psalm cxix. 89–96.

O LORD, Thy word: endureth for ever in heaven. Thy truth also remaineth from one generation to another: Thou hast laid the foundation of the earth, and it abideth. They continue this day according to Thine ordinance: for all things serve Thee. If my delight had not been in Thy law: I should have perished in my trouble. I will never forget Thy commandments: for with them Thou hast quickened me. I am Thine, O save me: for I have sought Thy commandments. The ungodly laid wait for me to destroy me: but I will consider Thy testimonies. I see that all things come to an end: but Thy commandment is exceeding broad.

The Psalmist here calls upon me to remember the one thing that does not come to an end—the Word of the Lord. "Heaven and earth shall pass away," saith our Lord, "but My Words shall not pass away." Jesus Christ, and the Truth which He teaches, abideth for ever in heaven. May I embrace this Truth now. May I cling to It as the one Rock of safety that can bear me up above the raging storms of the world.

Collect.

BLESSED Lord, Who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly

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digest them, that by patience, and comfort of Thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which Thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

O THOU, Who art the strength of our heart and our portion for ever, cast not away, O Lord, this Thy servant in the time of age, forsake *him* not when his strength faileth; but the more *his* body decayeth day by day, so much the more strengthen *his* soul for its last account. Make *him* ever mindful of the shortness and uncertainty of life; and so fill *him* with all joy and peace in believing that *he* may follow those who through faith and patience now inherit Thine everlasting kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMN V.

FOR ONE WHO HAS LIVED CARELESSLY.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.

The Epistle. Rom. xii.

I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the

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same office; so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Thoughts.

What, then, it is a blessed privilege for me to surrender my whole life, spirit, soul, and body as an enlightened and intelligent offering to the Lord; and, if I cannot realise this, it is because I cannot fully understand the mercies of God, vouchsafed to me through Jesus Christ. I am too much in conformity with this world, and too little in conformity with the will of the Lord Jesus. I am not yet able thoroughly to appreciate all that the Lord has done for me. Again, I am taught to be sober-minded; but I have not preserved that sobriety of mind under trial that I might have done. I have not realised that the Lord has a part for me to play as a sick member of His body, as well as He has for those who are in health and strength. It is for me now to shew forth the Christian graces of Patience and Resignation to the will of my heavenly Father, and especially to examine my past life by the rule of His Commandments, so that, should He be pleased to restore me to my former health and strength, I may be more seriously-minded for the future, and live more to His honour and glory than I have ever done before.

Psalm xxxiv.

I WILL alway give thanks unto the Lord: His praise shall ever be in my mouth. 2 My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof and be glad. 3 O praise the Lord with me: and let us magnify His Name together. 4 I sought the Lord, and He heard me: yea, He delivered me out of all my fear. 5 They had an eye unto Him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. 6 Lo, the poor crieth, and

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the Lord heareth him : yea, and saveth him out of all his troubles. 7 The angel of the Lord tarrieth round about them that fear Him : and delivereth them. 8 O taste, and see, how gracious the Lord is : blessed is the man that trusteth in Him. 9 O fear the Lord, ye that are His saints : for they that fear Him lack nothing, 10 The lions do lack, and suffer hunger : but they who seek the Lord shall want no manner of thing that is good. 11 Come, ye children, and hearken unto me : I will teach you the fear of the Lord. 12 What man is he that lusteth to live : and would fain see good days? 13 Keep thy tongue from evil : and thy lips, that they speak no guile. 14 Eschew evil, and do good : seek peace, and ensue it. 15 The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous : and His ears are open unto their prayers. 16 The countenance of the Lord is against them that do evil : to root out the remembrance of them from the earth. 17 The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth them : and delivereth them out of all their troubles. 18 The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart : and will save such as be of an humble spirit. 19 Great are the troubles of the righteous : but the Lord delivereth him out of all. 20 He keepeth all his bones : so that not one of them is broken. 21 But misfortune shall slay the ungodly : and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate. 22 The Lord delivereth the souls of His servants : and all they that put their trust in Him shall not be destitute.

May I learn to rejoice more and more in tribulation, as it brings me nearer to my God. Do I think it strange that the Lord should so afflict some persons, and allow others to enjoy health? then, let me listen to His answer; it is this—"Great are the troubles of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth

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him out of all." Enable me then, O Lord, to repent truly of my past thoughtlessness and carelessness of living, and to turn to Thee with all my heart, that, so being numbered among the righteous, I may at the last day obtain an incorruptible crown, when with all Thy Saints made perfect through sufferings, we shall bless and magnify Thee at all times, and Thy praise shall be in our mouth for evermore. *Amen.*

HYMN IV.

ASH WEDNESDAY.

From the Scripture appointed for the Epistle. Joel ii.

TURN ye even to Me, saith the Lord, with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning. And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth Him of the evil.

Have we, as a nation, no need of this appeal to turn from idols? our idols of covetousness, dishonesty, fornication, drunkenness, profaneness, worldliness, unbelief. And what are the remedies here held out to us? Fasting, weeping, mourning: outward indications, indeed, of sorrow, yet acceptable to God so far as they are true signs of real sorrow of heart. Thanks be to the Lord for giving me that discipline, that compulsory fasting and affliction of body which I should otherwise have avoided. I know that He sends it me in love, in order that I may call to my remembrance my former too careless and thoughtless life. Yet He is one Who has carried our griefs and borne our sorrows; He therefore knows my weakness; He will not suffer me to be cast down with over-much affliction, but will in due course give me that refreshment which seemeth to Him best for my soul.

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Psalm li.

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, after Thy great goodness: according to the multitude of Thy mercies do away mine offences. Wash me throughly from my wickedness: and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my faults: and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight: that Thou mightest be justified in Thy saying, and clear when Thou art judged. Behold, I was shapen in wickedness: and in sin hath my mother conceived me. But lo, Thou requirest truth in the inward parts: and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly. Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness: that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice. Turn Thy face from my sins: and put out all my misdeeds. Make me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence: and take not Thy holy Spirit from me. O give me the comfort of Thy help again: and stablish me with Thy free Spirit. Then shall I teach Thy ways unto the wicked: and sinners shall be converted unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou that art the God of my health: and my tongue shall sing of Thy righteousness. Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord: and my mouth shall shew Thy praise. For Thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it Thee: but Thou delightest not in burnt-offerings. The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt Thou not despise. O be favourable and gracious unto Sion: build Thou the walls of Jerusalem.

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God, I know, is just. May He enable me to see more and more the wisdom of His justice. May He have mercy upon me, coming to Him with a contrite heart. May He be favourable and gracious unto me His Sion, and build me up unto life eternal.

HYMN VI.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT.

The Epistle. Ephes. v.

BE ye therefore followers of God as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us, an offering and a Sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named amongst you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish-talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient; but rather giving of thanks: for this, ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ, and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them: for ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light; (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness, and truth;) proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them: for it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore He saith, Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

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Thoughts.

AS children naturally imitate their parents, so am I exhorted to imitate my heavenly Father, especially as He is manifested to us in the devotion and love of His only Son Jesus Christ. May I imitate this love; more particularly may I be ready to forgive any who have offended me, and, if I have done injury or wrong to any, may I now make amends to the utmost of my power. And, with respect to my past life, the Apostle tells me that they who give themselves up to covetousness, and self-indulgence of all kinds, are altogether shut out of heaven. Though I may not have gone so far as this, yet let me be more seriously-minded for the future, that I may avoid any approach to so terrible a state as one of exclusion from the heavenly courts. It is high time to awake out of the sleep of carelessness, indifference and worldliness. The world, by vain and deceitful words, would persuade me to trust in *it* for peace and happiness; but the Lord says to me, My child, learn of *Me;* take *My* yoke, and not the *world's* yoke, upon you, and ye shall find rest for your souls. May I then receive in all humility and thankfulness this His present yoke of weakness and suffering: may I embrace this opportunity He gives me of imitating His forbearance, long-suffering, and patience.

Psalm xxv.

UNTO Thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul; my God, I have put my trust in Thee: O let me not be confounded, neither let mine enemies triumph over me. For all they that hope in Thee shall not be ashamed: but such as transgress without a cause shall be put to confusion. Shew me Thy ways, O Lord: and teach me Thy paths. Lead me forth in Thy truth, and learn me: for Thou art the God of my salvation; in Thee hath been

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hope all the day long. Call to remembrance, O Lord, Thy tender mercies: and thy loving-kindnesses which have been ever of old. O remember not the sins and offences of my youth: but according to Thy mercy think Thou upon me, O Lord, for Thy goodness. Gracious and righteous is the Lord: therefore will He teach sinners in the way. Them that are meek shall He guide in judgment: and such as are gentle, them shall He learn his way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth: unto such as keep His covenant, and His testimonies. For Thy Name's sake, O Lord: be merciful unto my sin, for it is great. What man is he, that feareth the Lord: him shall He teach in the way that He shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease: and his seed shall inherit the land. The secret of the Lord is among them that fear Him: and He will shew them His covenant. Mine eyes are ever looking unto the Lord: for He shall pluck my feet out of the net. Turn Thee unto me, and have mercy upon me: for I am desolate, and in misery. The sorrows of my heart are enlarged: O bring Thou me out of my troubles. Look upon my adversity and misery: and forgive me all my sin. Consider mine enemies, how many they are: and they bear a tyrannous hate against me. O keep my soul and deliver me: let me not be confounded, for I have put my trust in Thee. Let perfectness and righteous dealing wait upon me: for my hope hath been in Thee. Deliver Israel, O God: out of all his troubles.

We ought not to try to forget altogether the sins of our past life; indeed it is well at times to endeavour to recall some of them. There are many which will be ever unknown to us, and for the pardon of them we must look to the infinite mercy of our God. It is by calling to remembrance our past sins that we shall be led to see the goodness of God

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in having hitherto spared us, and given us so much time for repentance. The more deeply we feel and deplore our sinfulness, in so much the better position are we placed for receiving benefit from the cleansing blood.

Prayers.

¶ *See the General Confession and Absolution in "The Communion of the Sick," page* 11.

HYMN IV.

GREAT EXHAUSTION AND SLEEPLESSNESS.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

The Epistle. Rom. viii.

I RECKON that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of Him who hath subjected the same in hope: because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption, into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth, and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Thoughts.

WHAT a mysterious thing is pain and suffering. Why is it, and whence comes it? we naturally ask. True religion gives but one answer: Man has

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fallen. And yet that very fall is made by God a means for our recovery; as St. Peter teaches us, man may be made perfect through suffering, *i.e.* by means of it, he may be restored to that happy state from which he fell; a state of freedom from pain, and disease, together with a state of perfect enjoyment in the presence of God for ever. What a blessed thing then is suffering, seeing that it is the seed time of so abundant an harvest; a preparation for future glory. We see impotence, weakness, and suffering stamped upon all around us. The whole created world is more or less affected by it. Yet at the same time there is also within it a struggle ever going on in order to attain to that better state of things which it shall one day enjoy. Blessed be God, we Christians who heartily embrace the full and clear promises of God made known to us, may look forward with earnest expectation in full confidence of the hope of future glory.

Psalm xxxix.

¶ *See page* 60.

HYMN X.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.

The Epistle. 1 Pet. ii.

THIS is thank-worthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently; this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: Who did sin, neither was guile found in His mouth: Who,

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when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously: Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Thoughts.

"SEE that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed thee in the mount," said the Lord to Moses, and now to me a Christian He saith the same. Thou hast thy pattern in all that the Lord Jesus as man hath done and suffered for thee; see that thou endeavourest to conform thy life to it in all things. Thou wast as a poor silly sheep, straying far from the fold; but the Lord hath taken thee in His arms, and brought thee into the fold; and now He is feeding thee with the bread of affliction in order that thou mayest tread more closely in thy Master's steps. Thou canst never walk perfectly in thy Master's steps; but thou knowest what a pattern of life He hath shown thee, which ended only with His death "on the mount" Calvary; and thou knowest how He hath borne thy sins there upon the tree in order that thou shouldest live unto righteousness.

Psalm xxiii.

THE Lord is my Shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for His Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me. Thou sha'

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prepare a table before me against them that trouble me : thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full. But Thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Lord is indeed the Shepherd and Bishop of His people. He brings them into His Church, washing them with Baptismal dew. He spreads a table before them, and feeds them with His own most blessed Body and Blood, and His Holy Spirit is ever ready to protect, guide and comfort them all the days of their life.

Collect.

O GOD, the protector of all that trust in Thee, without Whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy; Increase and multiply upon us Thy mercy; that, Thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal: Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMN IV. OR XII.

ST. MATTHIAS'S DAY.

From the Gospel. St. Matt. xi.

COME unto Me, all ye that labour ard are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

Thoughts.

THIS is a blessed invitation. Can I accept it? I do indeed labour under weariness of body. I

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often feel the burden of pain and weariness hard to bear, and then I long for rest; and yet I know that mere suffering will not entitle me to rest. Suffering and sorrow sometimes harden the heart and steel it against the blessed influences of the Holy Spirit. I must then look deeper than this. I must ask myself, Is my weakness being sanctified to me? Am I receiving this correction, this weakness o mine, as from the hand of a loving Father? Am I accepting it as the path at present in which He would have *me* walk in, the particular way in which *I* am called upon to serve Him? Am I then striving by God's grace to overcome those temptations which beset my condition such as irritability, impatience, discontent, murmuring, inordinate craving for sympathy, despondency, fearfulness, hoplessness, and a sense of isolation. It is thus labouring under a sense of my own sinfulness that I may look for rest, feeling that sin is after all the real burden; and that it is only in Christ that we can bear up against its temptation, and find inward joy and peace in believing.

Psalm vi.

O LORD, rebuke me not in Thine indignation: neither chasten me in Thy displeasure. Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am weak: O Lord, heal me, for my bones are vexed. My soul also is sore troubled: but, Lord, how long wilt Thou punish me? Turn Thee, O Lord, and deliver my soul: O save me for Thy mercy's sake. For in death no man remembereth Thee: and who will give Thee thanks in the pit? I am weary of my groaning; every night wash I my bed: and water my couch with my tears. My beauty is gone for very trouble: and worn away because of all mine enemies. Away from me, all ye that work vanity: for the Lord hath heard the voice of my weeping.

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The Lord hath heard my petition : the Lord will receive my prayer. All mine enemies shall be confounded, and sore vexed: they shall be turned back, and put to shame suddenly.

May I make these precious words my own. I am indeed weak, full of sin, and sorrow that proceedeth from sin. And yet through this very sorrow I may look for joy and health of soul. But I may not seize the prize at once; for it is only through much tribulation that we can enter into the kingdom of heaven. I must patiently wait for the loving-kindness of the Lord, and then in His own good time it will assuredly come.

Second Collect. Evensong.

O GOD, from Whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto Thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that by Thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

O HEAVENLY Father, Who holdest our eyes waking so that we cannot sleep, of Thy great goodness consider the weakness of this Thy servant, and if it be Thy blessed will grant *him* refreshing sleep. But if Thou shalt think fit to deny it, may Thy comforts refresh *his* soul. Enable *him* to meditate upon Thee in the watches of the night, to commune with *his* own heart, and diligently search out *his* spirit. Suffer not vain thoughts to trouble *him*, nor let *his* spiritual enemies have power over *him*. Grant this for the sake of Thine only Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMN VII.

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FOR A PENITENT.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST'S DAY.

The Epistle. 1 St. John i.

THAT which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled of the word of life; (for the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, That God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth; but if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Thoughts.

WHAT a blessed testimony was this of the beloved Apostle St. John. St. John, who was on the most intimate terms with our Lord, admitted to the closest possible friendship with Him. St. John was enabled to know Christ not merely as man, but as the Incarnate Son, the very Word of life, the very

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eternal Life which was with the Father from the beginning. And yet favoured as was St. John, he is not more favoured than I am confessing my sins and turning to the Lord with all my heart. Oh, the wondrous mercy of my God! Whatever were the privileges of St. John, mine too are the same. Fellowship, Communion, Participation in all saving blessings. What more can I desire? Oh, the joy to know that I am Christ's, and Christ is God! Weak and sinful as I know I am, yet I can never really again love sin, so as to walk in it with any pleasure. I hate it, I would cast it from me again and again, so that I may but live in the light of my God for ever.

Prayer.

¶ *See Collect in "Visitation of the Sick" beginning*

"O most merciful God, Who, according to the multitude," &c., *page* 26.

Psalm xxxii.

BLESSED is he whose unrighteousness is forgiven: and whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth no sin: and in whose spirit there is no guile. For while I held my tongue: my bones consumed away through my daily complaining. For Thy hand is heavy upon me day and night: and my moisture is like a drought in summer. I will acknowledge my sin unto Thee: and mine unrighteousness have I not hid. I said, I will confess my sins unto the Lord: and so Thou forgavest the wickedness of my sin. Great plagues remain for the ungodly: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord, mercy embraceth him on every side. Be glad, O ye righteous, and rejoice in the Lord: and be joyful, all ye that are true of heart.

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How truly does the Psalmist express my feelings. I have sinned, I have sinned grievously, but I have been made to see the intense sinfulness of my sins, and to confess them to Him, and forgiveness is mine; a loving Father has forgiven me, and my joy is full, complete.

Collect. Sixth Sunday after Trinity.

O GOD, Who hast prepared for them that love Thee such good things as pass man's understanding; Pour into our hearts such love toward Thee, that we, loving Thee above all things, may obtain Thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMN I.

SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY.

The Epistle. 1 Cor. ix.

KNOW ye not, that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things: now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Thoughts.

THE Christian life then is like a race, in which men run for a prize. But how can I, thus afflicted as I am, be said to run; or indeed to do any active work for God? And yet am I to be left out of the glorious race? it cannot be. God has His work for me in weakness, just as He would have had it had I been in health and strength. A race implies exer-

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tion, effort, on the part of the runner. What effort then am I making to overcome the particular hindrances and difficulties that beset my path? 1. Impatience under trials: to this sin my condition renders me especially liable, and yet the Scripture saith "tribulation worketh patience." May tribulation then gradually overcome my natural impatience, so that I may at length possess my soul in quietness and in confidence. 2. Murmuring and discontent: to these sins also I find myself sometimes tempted to yield. What a sin is it to believe that my Father is sending me this affliction for my good, and yet to entertain murmuring and complaining thoughts. 3. Worldliness. Alas! my every-day troubles and trials engross my thoughts far too much! How do I feel to-day? Did the doctor appear hopeful at his last visit? Shall I ask him to alter my medicine? change my diet? What I last took did not, I think, agree with me. I must endeavour not to give way too much to such thoughts about my bodily health. "Seek ye *first* the kingdom of God, and His righteousness." Enable me then, O Lord, to think more of my soul than hitherto; for now is the time, through Thy Holy Spirit, to make great advances in my Christian course. Faith, Patience, Resignation, Contentment, these are the graces, O Lord, that I seek; this only the medicine, this the spiritual diet, that, through Christ, can help me to the incorruptible crown.

Psalm xxxiv.

¶ *See page* 68.

Collect.

O LORD God, Who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do; Mercifully grant that by Thy power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMN X. OR XI.

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SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY.

The Gospel. St. Luke viii.

WHEN much people were gathered together, and were come to Him out of every city, He spake by a parable: A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell by the way-side, and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock, and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundred-fold. And when He had said these things, He cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And His disciples asked Him, saying, What might this parable be? And He said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God. Those by the way-side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe, and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns, are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares, and riches, and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground, are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Thoughts.

THIS well-known parable may suggest many useful thoughts to me. Let me regard it to-day as presenting my Christian life to me as a struggle, or

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warfare against enemies. 1. There is "the devil;" no mere creation of the brain, but a real, living, untiring enemy, ever watching to catch me tripping, ever suggesting unbelieving, hard thoughts of God. This then is one enemy against which I have continually to watch. 2. Another enemy, or class of enemies is, what may be called "a time of adversity." When my pain of body is more severe than usual, or when I feel more than ever prostrate through weakness, then I am apt to murmur, and feel offended at my lot. Or again when I hear others speak lightly, or even scoffingly of those who practise religious duties, or when I hear the Church spoken against of which I am a member, then I am apt sometimes to feel puzzled, and shaken in my faith, and inclined to side with such persons. 3. As the last enemy was described as "a time of adversity," so another may be described as "a time of prosperity," because this class of enemies is what the *world* regards as prosperity, and therefore desirable, *e. g.*, Thoughtfulness about getting the best of every thing for ourselves in this life, about all the good things that money can buy, thoughts about all the pleasure and enjoyment that may be got out of life. Such enemies are called by our Lord "deceitful" (St. Matt. and St. Mark); for we are easily led aside and deceived by such things. They have need to be fought against as enemies; for they are ever trying to choke better thoughts, and to get the first place in our affections. May the Lord give me patience to watch and pray against all these enemies, and so prevail.

Psalm lvii.

BE merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me, for my soul trusteth in Thee: and under the shadow of Thy wings shall be my refuge, until this tyranny be over-past. I will call unto the most

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high God : even unto the God that shall perform the cause which I have in hand. He shall send from heaven : and save me from the reproof of him that would eat me up. God shall send forth His mercy and truth : my soul is among lions. And I lie even among the children of men, that are set on fire : whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword. Set up Thyself, O God, above the heavens : and Thy glory above all the earth. They have laid a net for my feet, and pressed down my soul : they have digged a pit before me, and are fallen into the midst of it themselves. My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed : I will sing, and give praise. Awake up, my glory ; awake, lute and harp : I myself will awake right early. I will give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, among the people : and I will sing unto Thee among the nations. For the greatness of Thy mercy reacheth unto the heavens : and Thy truth unto the clouds. Set up Thyself, O God, above the heavens : and Thy glory above all the earth.

"Awake up, awake right early :" thus the Psalmist speaks of the risen Lord Jesus. And now, as God, exalted above the heavens and the earth, He can overcome all our enemies.

Collect.

GRANT, O Lord, that as we are baptized into the death of Thy blessed Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, so by continual mortifying our corrupt affections we may be buried with Him ; and that through the grave, and gate of death, we may pass to our joyful resurrection ; for His merits, Who died, and was buried, and rose again for us, Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMN XI.

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TROUBLED IN MIND AND DESPONDENT.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

From the Gospel. St. Luke xv.

AND He spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, That likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Thoughts.

I LEARN from these two parables, 1. The danger of self-righteousness. Self-righteousness not only leads us to look down with pity and contempt upon others, but also blinds us to our own defects. "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." May I ever thank the Lord for giving me warning by sending me this affliction, enabling me to look into my own heart and see its corruption. 2. I am sometimes overcome by a sense of loneliness, and a feeling that none can sympathise with me. Alas! have I

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not sometimes repelled the kind, well-intentioned advances of others by a certain querulousness and impatience? And as to loneliness, have I sufficiently realised the intense interest with which every human soul is regarded by the angels of heaven? Twice in this Gospel does our blessed Lord speak of the joy of the holy angels, when in deep penitence the soul turns to its God. Alone! How can I be alone, with God for my Father, the Holy Ghost for my Comforter, the holy Angels for my Guardians, and a cloud of myriads of faithful witnesses who have gone before, all bidding me look unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of my faith?

Psalm xci.

WHOSO dwelleth under the defence of the most High: shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say unto the Lord, Thou art my hope, and my stronghold: My God, in Him will I trust. For He shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter: and from the noisome pestilence. He shall defend Thee under His wings, and thou shalt be safe under His feathers: His faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night: nor for the arrow that flieth by day; for the pestilence that walketh in darkness: nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noon-day. A thousand shall fall beside thee, and ten thousand at thy right hand: but it shall not come nigh thee. Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold: and see the reward of the ungodly. For Thou, Lord, art my hope: Thou hast set Thine house of defence very high. There shall no evil happen unto thee: neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over thee: to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee in their hands: that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone. Thou

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shalt go upon the lion and adder : the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet. Because He hath set His love upon me, therefore will I deliver him : I will set him up, because he hath known My Name. He shall call upon Me and I will hear him : yea, I am with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and bring him to honour. With long life will I satisfy him : and shew him My salvation.

How plainly does the Psalmist, inspired by God here tell us, that, believing truly in Christ, walking in His ways, dwelling in Him, and He in us, nothing can do us any real harm. Let the lion, the adder, and the dragon, let Satan and his evil angels beset us, it matters not, for we know that they that be with us are more powerful. Christ is all-sufficient for His people.

Collect.

O EVERLASTING God, Who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order; Mercifully grant, that as Thy holy Angels alway do Thee service in heaven, so by Thy appointment they may succour and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMN VIII.

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.

The Epistle. Col. iii.

PUT on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And

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above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do, in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.

Thoughts.

HAVE I not been too hard and unsympathising, wanting in love and affection towards my fellow-creatures? If so, this trial has been assuredly sent me to soften my heart, so that experiencing weakness and sickness myself, I may have more sympathy for the future with the afflictions of others. Blessed be God then if this my affliction renders me less despondent and troubled about my own case, less self-seeking, and therefore more disposed to remember that others are suffering as well as myself, more kind and considerate, and more ready to cultivate that love or charity towards others, which is the perfection of the Christian character. Then the peace of God shall exercise greater influence over the unruly passions of my heart; and should the Lord be pleased to restore me to health, I shall be more fitted to join with Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven in the praises of God in His House on earth, preparatory to the everlasting praises in the Courts above.

Psalm cxxii.

I WAS glad when they said unto me : We will go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand in thy gates : O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built as a city : that is at unity in itself. For thither

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the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord : to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord. For there is the seat of judgment : even the seat of the house of David.. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem : they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls : and plenteousness within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sakes : I will wish thee prosperity. Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God : I will seek to do thee good.

"Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity in itself;" such was the original design of the Christian Church; one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of all. Alas! how is it torn asunder by divisions. "O pray for the peace of Jerusalem." Pray that Christ's people may be all one in Christ outwardly and visibly, as well as inwardly and spiritually; that so the world, seeing this unity, may believe the truth as it is in Jesus. (St. John xvii. 21.)

Collect.

O LORD, Who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send Thy Holy Ghost and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before Thee: Grant this for Thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

HYMN VIII.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

The Epistle. Ephes. iii.

I DESIRE that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He

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would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in thy inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end, *Amen.*

Thoughts.

ST. PAUL when he wrote these words was a prisoner in chains, bound to the soldier who guarded him. This imprisonment of the Apostle was a great trial to the faith of the Christians at Ephesus. How could the Gospel flourish when its chief Apostle was under arrest? Have I not too been overcome sometimes with the thought of the hindrances that beset the spreading of the Gospel? how does it seem as it were a prisoner on its trial! Some will even regard it as an imposture? and if others will not go so far as this, yet they will not allow it to influence their hearts and lives. And then in my own case what chains do I feel at times holding me down, and preventing my enjoying full communion with my God. My past sins take hold of me, and I think of an angry God, and of judgment to come. Such are some of the thoughts which at times trouble me. Let me consider the remedy here suggested by the Apostle. It is this: Faith in Christ, so that I may be able to look beyond the clouds of this world, and see the all-embracing love of Christ upon the Cross, able to fold within itself the whole world, and to overcome every difficulty that besets me.

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Psalm xxv.

¶ *See page* 73.

WE humbly beseech Thee, O Father, mercifully to look upon our infirmities; and for the glory of Thy Name turn from us all those evils that we most righteously have deserved; and grant that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in Thy mercy, and evermore serve Thee in holiness and pureness of living, to Thy honour and glory; through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Second Collect: Litany.)

Collect.

O GOD, Who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright; Grant to us such strength and protection, as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMN V.

WHEN TROUBLED WITH BLASPHEMOUS THOUGHTS.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.

From the Gospel. St. Matt. viii.

AND when He was entered into a ship, His disciples followed Him. And behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but He was asleep. And His disciples

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came to Him, and awoke Him, saying, Lord, save us, we perish. And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!

Address.

"WHY are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?" Such is the reply of our Lord to His disciples who had well-nigh given themselves up as lost. He gently reproves their weak faith, and then speaking peace to the disturbed elements, the winds cease to blow, and the waves to roll. You too are sometimes agitated, or even well-nigh overcome with doubts about your future salvation through fear of not having your sins pardoned; and you have even been tormented with blasphemous and wicked thoughts. I. With respect to doubts about your salvation, and the fear of not having your sins pardoned; remember, that to a certain extent, a *due* fear of God is right and proper in every one; and that a tender conscience and a contrite heart is what the Lord loves. Christ came not to call the righteous—those who think themselves such—to repentance, but sinners; those who are weighed down with a sense of their sins, and desire to be released from them. Christ came not to call the righteous, the self-sufficient, the self-satisfied, and the careless; for such, while they remain in this condition, cannot receive the grace of God to any saving purpose. II. You are sometimes tormented with even blasphemous and wicked thoughts. But here remember for your comfort that great weakness of body has often something to do with such thoughts, for the body acts upon the mind: the devil knows this, and takes advantage accordingly. But God also knows your weakness, and He also knows the malice of the devil. When such thoug'

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beset you, yield to them as little as possible. Call upon God in prayer as the disciples did. The Lord's Prayer is well adapted to the purpose, or even short ejaculations. Then resign yourself into God's hands, and He will in the end speak peace to your soul.

Psalm cxlii.

I CRIED unto the Lord with my voice : yea, even unto the Lord did I make my supplication. I poured out my complaints before Him : and shewed Him of my trouble. When my spirit was in heaviness Thou knewest my path : in the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me. I looked also upon my right hand : and saw there was no man that would know me. I had no place to flee unto : and no man cared for my soul. I cried unto Thee, O Lord, and said : Thou art my hope, and my portion in the land of the living. Consider my complaint : for I am brought very low. O deliver me from my persecutors : for they are too strong for me. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks unto Thy Name : which thing if Thou wilt grant me, then shall the righteous resort unto my company.

Let me consider here the deep dejection of spirit of the Son of God. "Father," He said, "save Me from this hour," the fearful hour of His betrayal, the fearful hour of His Crucifixion. And was our blessed *Lord's* soul brought out of prison, out of the deepest unknown depths of sorrow; and shall not *my* soul be set at liberty when I call upon Thee, O my God? (Ps. iv. 1.)

¶ *See last Prayer "Visitation of the Sick," "O Blessed Lord, the Father of mercies," &c., page* 30.

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¶ *Or*,

O GOD, merciful Father, that despisest not the sighing of a contrite heart nor the desire of such as be sorrowful; Mercifully assist our prayers that we make before Thee in all our troubles and adversities, whensoever they oppress us; and graciously hear us that those evils, which the craft and subtlety of the devil or man worketh against us, be brought to nought, and by the providence of Thy goodness, they may be dispersed; that we Thy servants, being hurt by no persecutions, may evermore give thanks unto Thee in Thy holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(1st Coll.: Litany.)

HYMN IV.

ON RECOVERING.

WHITSUNDAY.

From the Gospel. St. John xiv.

JESUS said unto His disciples, If ye love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved Me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for My Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe. Hereafter I will not talk much w

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you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me. But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave Me commandment, even so I do.

A child who really loves its parents will take pleasure in obedience, and when it has done wrong it will be grieved at having given pain to a good and kind parent. Even so is it with the Christian. Love to Christ, and obedience to Him, cannot properly be separated. The one acts upon and intensifies the other. The more we seek to obey Him, so much the lighter and easier do we find His yoke to be; and so our love of Him increases, and the more this increases, so much the more do we rejoice in obeying, and grieve when we disobey; and then further, we become more and more enlightened in all saving knowledge. We experience the presence of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, a presence which is quite lost to worldly-minded persons. And this glorious presence is especially manifested in our hearts by the peace which it bestows, a peace again of which the world knows nothing—a peace which while it does not free us from trial here, yet gives us a foundation on which to rest, sure and steadfast in the *midst* of trial, and also something on which to gaze *beyond* all trial, and which will be ours *after* trial.

Psalm cxix. 97–104.

LORD, what love have I unto Thy law: all the day long is my study in it. Thou through Thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than my teachers: for Thy testimonies are my study. I am wiser than the aged: because I keep Thy commandments. I have refrained my feet from every evil way: that I may keep Thy Word. I have not

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shrunk from Thy judgments: for Thou teachest me. O how sweet are Thy words unto my throat: yea, sweeter than honey unto my mouth. Through Thy commandments I get understanding: therefore I hate all evil ways.

How beautifully does the Psalmist here prophesy of the law of love, the Gospel of the grace of God. Blessed are our eyes, for we see things that the greatest prophets of old could not see. Therefore, indeed, wiser are we than the venerable teachers of old time. Blessed be God, while the Law was given by Moses, Grace and Truth has come by Jesus Christ.

Collect.

O ALMIGHTY Lord, and everlasting God, vouchsafe, we beseech Thee, to direct, sanctify, and govern, both our hearts and bodies, in the ways of Thy laws, and in the works of Thy commandments; that, through Thy most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

(2nd after Offertory.)

THANKSGIVING FOR RECOVERY.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

The Gospel. St. Luke xvii.

AND it came to pass, as Jesus went to Jerusalem, that He passed through the midst of Samaria, and Galilee. And as He entered into a certain village, there met Him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master.

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have mercy on us. And when He saw them, He said unto them, Go, shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks; and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And He said unto him, Arise, go thy way, thy faith hath made thee whole.

Thoughts.

LET me consider well the conduct of this Samaritan leper. His was no mere giving of thanks with his lips: he did this, and rightly; and he also did more. He turned his footsteps back again, in opposition to the nine Jews who continued on their way. With a deep sense of gratitude, he fell at the feet of the Good Physician, and with heartfelt joy he gave thanks to God. What too shall I render unto the Lord for all the benefits He hath done unto me? May I resolve to give myself more truly to His service, and to rise to a higher and to a better life in Him.

Psalm xxx.

I WILL magnify Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast set me up: and not made my foes to triumph over me. O Lord my God, I cried unto Thee: and Thou hast healed me. Thou, Lord, hast brought my soul out of hell: Thou hast kept my life from them that go down to the pit. Sing praises unto the Lord, O ye saints of His: and give thanks unto Him for a remembrance of His holiness. For His wrath endureth but the twinkling of an eye, and in His pleasure is life: heaviness may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. And in my pros-

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perity I said, I shall never be removed: Thou, Lord, of Thy goodness hast made my hill so strong. Thou didst turn Thy face from me: and I was troubled. Then cried I unto Thee, O Lord: and gat me to my Lord right humbly. What profit is there in my blood: when I go down to the pit? Shall the dust give thanks unto Thee: or shall it declare Thy truth? Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me: Lord, be Thou my helper. Thou hast turned my heaviness into joy: Thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness. Therefore shall every good man sing of Thy praise without ceasing: O my God, I will give thanks unto Thee for ever.

O LORD God, Who hast wounded this Thy servant for *his* sins, and consumed *him* for *his* transgressions, by Thy late severe visitation, and now in the midst of judgment, remembering mercy, hast redeemed *his* soul from the jaws of death; *he* humbly desires to offer unto Thy fatherly goodness *himself*, *his* soul and body which Thou hast delivered, to be a living sacrifice unto Thee, continually praising and magnifying Thy mercies in the midst of Thy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(From the "Thanksgivings.")

WHEN SMALL HOPE OF RECOVERY.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

The Epistle. Rom. vi.

KNOW ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk

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in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection: knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him; knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him. For in that He died, He died unto sin once; but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thoughts.

OBSERVE the strong language the Apostle uses with respect to Christian Baptism; he speaks of us as having, by means of that Sacrament, been buried with Christ, planted together in the likeness of His death; *i.e.* as closely connected as a scion is to the stock of the tree on which it is grafted; crucified and dead with Christ, so as to rise again and live with Him. Alas! how little in my past life have I realised this and other blessed privileges of the Gospel. How feebly have I allowed the light that was in me to shine forth to the world. I have lived as though I were under the Law, instead of under Grace; and if I have not yielded to grievous sins, I have allowed myself to fall into far too thoughtless and careless a life in spiritual things, and have not risen to the high and regenerate state of one born anew under the Gospel; but, blessed be God, He will not deal with me according to my sins, He will not despise the broken and contrite heart, but He will ever be merciful to those that acknowledge their faults, and will confess their sins unto Him.

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Psalm cx.

THE Lord said unto my Lord: sit Thou on my right hand until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The Lord shall send the rod of Thy power out of Sion: be Thou ruler, even in the midst among Thine enemies. In the day of Thy power shall the people offer Thee free-will offerings with an holy worship: the dew of Thy birth is of the womb of the morning. The Lord sware, and will not repent: Thou art a Priest for ever after the order of Melchisedech. The Lord upon Thy right hand: shall wound even kings in the day of His wrath. He shall judge among the heathen; He shall fill the places with the dead bodies: and smite in sunder the heads over divers countries. He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall He lift up His head.

The Psalmist here speaks of the power of the Son of David, Jesus Christ, very God and very man, a power only obtained through suffering and death; yet a power so great that none shall be able to withstand it. Such is the Gospel of the Grace of God, the kingdom of which I have been made a member, in communion with thousands and tens of thousands, who have been made free from sin. (Rom. vi. 22.) Such are like the sparkling dew of the morning, born anew to wear a crown of glory, and a splendid robe of righteousness, which shall shine forth in spotless brightness on the resurrection morning.

Collect. Sixth Sunday after Trinity.

¶ *See page* 83.

Second Collect. Evensong.

¶ *See page* 80.

¶ *See "Visitation of the Sick." "O Father of mercies,' &c., page* 29.

HYMN V.

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SICK CHILD.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.

From the Epistle. 1 John iii.

BEHOLD, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know, that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as he is. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil: for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Address.

MY dear child, you are laid upon the bed of sickness, you cannot run and play as you used to do, yet you have those about you who watch and care for you. A kind (mother), (father), (sister). They love you dearly, and are ever doing their best to make you as comfortable and as happy as they can. Yet your kind mother is not the only one who is watching over you. There is One above, God, our heavenly Father, Who is also watching over you; He is much greater than your mother, your mother can only help you in sickness, and give you medicine to make you better; she did not make you sick, it was your heavenly Father, Who made you as you are, thus weak and ill; and He alone, when He chooses, can give you strength and health. But do not think that He is an unkind Father because He sent you this illness. If He *seem* unkind to you, it is because you

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do not trust Him enough. He knows better than your mother what is good for you; either He will make you well, so that you may grow up and be good and useful for a time; or else He will take you to heaven sooner. Either way, be sure to trust Him as your kind Father, and make up your mind, if you get better, never to do any thing that you know will make your mother or Him angry. When you feel tempted by the devil to say anything that you know is not quite true, or to give way to bad thoughts, or to do any thing which you know to be wrong, be sure to be very sorry, and to pray to God, to help you to get the better of all wicked thoughts, words, and deeds.

Psalm ciii.

PRAISE the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me praise His Holy Name. Praise the Lord, O my soul : and forget not all His benefits; Who forgiveth all thy sin : and healeth all thine infirmities. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy : long-suffering, and of great goodness. He will not always be chiding : neither keepeth he His anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins : nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses. For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth : so great is His mercy also toward them that fear Him. Look how wide also the east is from the west : so far hath He set our sins from us. Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children : even so is the Lord merciful unto them that fear Him. O praise the Lord, ye angels of His, ye that excel in strength : ye that fulfil His commandment, and hearken unto the voice of His words. O praise the Lord, all ye His hosts : ye servants of His that do His pleasure. O speak good of the Lord, all ye works of His, in all places of His dominion : praise thou the Lord, O my soul.

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Collect.

O GOD, Whose Blessed Son was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil, and make us the sons of God and heirs of eternal life; Grant us, we beseech Thee, that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves, even as He is pure; that, when He shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto Him in His eternal and glorious kingdom; where with Thee, O Father, and Thee, O Holy Ghost, He liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ *See "Visitation of the Sick." "O Almighty God and merciful Father," &c., page* 28.

IF CHILD UNLIKELY TO RECOVER.

INNOCENTS' DAY.

From the Gospel. St. Matt. ii.

Subject:—Children glorify God by their death.

THE Angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young Child, and His Mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him. When he arose, he took the young Child and His Mother by night, and departed into Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my Son. Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth; and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

Psalm xxxiv. 6–10.

¶ *See page* 68.

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Collect.

O ALMIGHTY God, who out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast ordained strength, and madest infants to glorify Thee by their deaths; Mortify and kill all vices in us, and so strengthen us by Thy grace, that by the innocency of our lives, and constancy of our faith even unto death, we may glorify Thy Holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.

The Gospel. St. John. x.

Subject :—The Good Shepherd bringing His sheep.

JESUS said, I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine. As the Father knoweth Me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down My Life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one fold, and one Shepherd.

Psalm xxiii.

¶ *See page* 77.

O HEAVENLY Father, Who hast taught us that Angels beholding Thy face protect Thy children upon earth; we beseech Thee of Thine infinite mercy to send Thy Guardian Angels to this Thy child. Strengthen and comfort *him* in *his* pain and

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weakness, and in Thine own good time carry *his* soul into the land of the living where the light of Thy countenance shineth for evermore. Grant this for the sake of Thine only Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

SICK WOMAN IN CHILD-BED.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

The Epistle.

¶ *See Page* 75.

Psalm xx.

THE Lord hear thee in the day of trouble: the Name of the God of Jacob defend thee; Send thee help from the sanctuary : and strengthen thee out of Sion; Remember all thy offerings: and accept thy burnt-sacrifice; Grant thee thy heart's desire : and fulfil all thy mind. We will rejoice in Thy salvation, and triumph in the Name of the Lord our God : the Lord perform all thy petitions. Now know I, that the Lord helpeth His Anointed, and will hear Him from His holy heaven: even with the wholesome strength of His right hand. Some put their trust in chariots, and some in horses : but we will remember the Name of the Lord our God. They are brought down, and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright. Save, Lord, and hear us, O King of heaven: when we call upon Thee.

¶ *See second Collect in Litany, page* 94.

Collect.

LORD, Who never failest to help and govern them whom Thou dost bring up in Thy steadfast fear

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and love; Keep us, we beseech Thee, under the protection of Thy good providence, and make us to have a perpetual fear and love of Thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Speak of being Churched; and educating child.*

BLIND.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

The Gospel. St. John i.

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth.

Thoughts.

FROM this Gospel we learn that there is no light so glorious as that which consists of life in

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Christ. And there is no darkness so terrible and dense as that which consists in the refusal to receive the light of Christ when offered to us. Christ is said to lighten every man which cometh into the world. By this we must understand every man who is willing to receive Christ into his heart. As a dense fog refuses to allow the bright rays of light to penetrate it, so we may shut out Christ from our heart. On the other hand, we may receive Him into our heart, and be enlightened to all eternity. Again, Christ is not only the Light, but also the true Light, the one true Light as distinguished from all other lights which are more or less false and misleading. The Christian religion is the one true religion. All other religions are more or less false. Of this true Light we have been made partakers. We have beheld its glory as truly as St. John beheld it: may we ever rejoice in it; for then, no real darkness can ever be our lot.

Psalm xcvii.

THE Lord is King, the earth may be glad thereof : yea, the multitude of the isles may be glad thereof. Clouds and darkness are round about Him : righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His seat. For Thou, Lord, art higher than all that are in the earth : Thou art exalted far above all gods. O ye that love the Lord, see that ye hate the thing which is evil : the Lord preserveth the souls of His saints; He shall deliver them from the hand of the ungodly. There is sprung up a light for the righteous: and joyful gladness for such as are true-hearted. Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous : and give thanks for a remembrance of His holiness.

The Lord Jesus hath ascended into heaven, from thence He looketh down upon every child of man.

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He numbereth every hair of our head. Though clouds and darkness are round about Him, though many of His doings with respect to us are hard to be understood, He will in the end make all things clear as the noonday.

BLESSED Lord, Who didst anoint the eyes of the blind so that they did see, we beseech Thee anoint the soul of this Thy suffering servant more and more with the abundance of Thy grace. Open Thou the eyes of *his* understanding that *he* may see the wondrous things of Thy law, and be made a partaker of Thy heavenly promises now and for evermore. *Amen.*

IN OR AFTER GREAT PAIN.

IN the midst of life we are in death: of whom may we seek for succour, but of Thee, O Lord, Who for our sins art justly displeased? Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death. Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not Thy merciful ears to our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, Thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from Thee.

(Burial Office).

WEDNESDAY BEFORE EASTER.

From the Gospel. St. Luke xxii.

AND He came out, and went, as He was wont, to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples also followed Him. And when He was at the place, He said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And

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He was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, saying, Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me: nevertheless not My will, but Thine be done. And there appeared an angel unto Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in an agony, He prayed more earnestly; and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

By Thine unknown sufferings, good Lord deliver us.

¶ *Or, this may be read.*

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

The Epistle.

¶ *See page* 75.

Psalm xxxviii.

PUT me not to rebuke, O Lord, in Thine anger: neither chasten me in Thy heavy displeasure. For Thine arrows stick fast in me: and Thy hand presseth me sore. There is no health in my flesh, because of Thy displeasure: neither is there any rest in my bones, by reason of my sin. For my wickednesses are gone over my head: and are like a sore burden, too heavy for me to bear. My wounds stink, and are corrupt: through my foolishness. I am brought into so great trouble and misery: that I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are filled with a sore disease: and there is no whole part in my body. I am feeble, and sore smitten: I have roared for the very disquietness of my heart. Lord, Thou knowest all my desire: and my groaning is not hid from Thee. For I will confess my wickedness: and be sorry for my sin. Forsake me not, O Lord my God: be not Thou far from me. Haste Thee to help me: O Lord God of my salvation.

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The Christian in the midst of his pain and weakness remembers that pain and weakness are the consequence of sin. He therefore confesses his sins to God; shows his wounds to the good Physician of souls, Jesus Christ; prays to Him to cure them, and to make his sufferings a blessing to his soul.

O BLESSED Lord, Who in Thine agony, when Thy sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground, didst pray yet more earnestly that Thy Father's will might be done; even so now of Thy great mercy vouchsafe strength unto this Thine afflicted servant, that *he* may cast *himself* wholly upon Thee in resignation to Thy will, in patience in *his* affliction, and in earnest prayer for support in this *his* hour of need, through Thy mercy, O our God, Who art blessed, and livest and reignest for ever and ever. *Amen.*

HYMN VII.

IF INSENSIBLE.

¶ *With the Friends.*

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

The Gospel. St. Matt. ix.

JESUS entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed. And Jesus, seeing their faith, said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, be of good cheer, thy sins be forgiven thee. And behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee? or to say,

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Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith He to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house. But when the multitude saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, Who had given such power unto men.

Address.

CONSIDER, Christian brethren, what pains the bearers of the sick of the palsy took to bring him into the presence of Jesus. They (a) looked about on every side, to see how they could get the sick man through the dense crowd which thronged our Lord. At last, sooner than lose the blessed opportunity, they actually removed the tiles from the roof of the house, and let down the sick man in his bed before Jesus. Our Lord recognises this persevering faith of the bearers by healing the sick man both in soul and body. Even so now, my friends, let us draw nigh to our heavenly Father in persevering faith and prayer in behalf of this our afflicted *brother*.

(a) St. Luke, "They sought means."

Prayers.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Who didst restore the helpless man when brought to Thee in faith; Look down, we beseech Thee, on this Thine afflicted servant, and in Thine own good time restore *him* to *his* senses that *he* may give thanks to Thy holy Name, and praise Thee with joyful lips, O blessed Lord, Who art with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

O LORD, arise, help us, and deliver us for Thy Name's sake. O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have declared unto us, the noble works that Thou didst in their days, and in the old

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time before them. O Lord, arise, help us, and deliver us for Thine honour. Glory be, &c. As it was, &c. From our enemies defend us, O Christ. Graciously look upon our afflictions. Pitifully behold the sorrows of our hearts. Mercifully forgive the sins of Thy people. Favourably with mercy hear our prayers. O Son of David, have mercy upon us. Both now and ever vouchsafe to hear us, O Christ. Graciously hear us, O Christ; graciously hear us, O Lord Christ. O Lord, let Thy mercy be shewed upon us; as we do put our trust in Thee.

¶ *Also "We humbly beseech Thee, O Father," see page* 94.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION.

Notes.

CONSIDER what the Prayer-book tells us is required of them who come to the Lord's Supper. 1. To examine themselves, whether they repent them truly of their former sins, steadfastly purposing to lead a new life? 2. Whether they have a lively faith in God's mercy through Christ, with a thankful remembrance of His death? 3. Whether they are in charity with all men?

1. Repentance. Not live in any known sin, *e. g.*, lying, swearing, drinking, uncleanliness, idleness, avoid all occasions of sin, and endeavour to live in fear of God for future, in watchfulness and in prayer. ¶ *See "Notes on Commandments,"* p. 33.

2. Faith in God's mercy through Christ, with thankful remembrance of His death. ¶ *See "Notes on Creed,"* p. 32. Christ redeemed us not only from death and hell, but also from this present evil world, that we should live holy lives, and be happy here and hereafter.

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3. Charity with all men, *i.e.*, walk in love as Christ loved us. And therefore are you ready to forgive, &c. ¶ *See* p. 34. Remember, Jesus saith, "If thou bringest thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way: first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."

THURSDAY BEFORE EASTER.

From the Epistle. 1 Cor. xi. 23.

FOR I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat; this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me. After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the New Testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come. Wherefore, whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another. And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

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Address.

WE have seen, good *brother*, the necessity of self-examination, so that we may come to this Holy Sacrament with pure and clean hearts; and I have now read to you the particulars respecting the institution of that Sacrament by the Lord Jesus Christ. These particulars were made known to St. Paul by special revelation from God Himself. The Lord Jesus after celebrating the Passover-supper with His disciples shewed them how they were to celebrate the new rite which was to take the place of the Passover. Of this new rite He had spoken prophetically before when He said, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you." The Apostles were to take bread and wine, and blessing them, they were to feed the people committed to their charge with them, using the divine words recorded in this Epistle. This is My body, said our Lord when He gave it to His disciples; this is My body which is being given for you, or being broken for you; and this is My blood of the New Testament which is being shed for you: this do in remembrance of Me. The whole action was intended to be prophetical to the disciples of what was *about* to take place, just as when we do it now it is commemorative of what *has* taken place upon the Cross. We shew forth the Lord's death till He come again from heaven, we re-present to the Father, and plead before Him, the precious benefits to us of that body broken and that blood shed, once for all upon the Cross; and we spiritually "eat the flesh of Christ and drink His blood" for the strengthening and refreshing of our souls and bodies unto life eternal.

Psalm xxiii.

¶ *See page 77.*

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The Lord is the Good Shepherd Who gave His life for the sheep; and now in the wilderness of this world He feeds us with the refreshing pasture of His Word and Sacraments. If in His wisdom He think fit to send us trouble and affliction for a time, He can bring us safely through it all, into the house of God not made with hands eternal in the heavens.

ALMIGHTY God, Who hast visited us with Thy salvation, giving Thine only Son to die for us, and to be our food and sustenance in Thy blessed Sacrament, though unworthy of the least of Thy mercies, yet lovingly called by Thee, we draw nigh to Thy holy altar. Cleanse our hearts, we beseech Thee, from all vain imaginations and unholy desires, that spiritually eating and drinking the body and blood of Thy Christ we may be raised up to newness of life, and be preserved both in our souls and bodies for Thy heavenly kingdom, through the same, Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OUR Father which art in heaven, we miserable sinners approach Thee with all humility, yet lifting up our soul unto Thee. May *Thy Name* now *be hallowed* by us in what we are about to do; and *Thy kingdom come* quickly into our hearts. May *Thy will*, O Lord, now *be done* by us *in earth*, when we present before Thee that most precious Body and Blood, even *as it is in heaven*, where the Lamb stands slain from the foundation of the world. *Give us day by day our daily bread*, feeding our souls with the Body and Blood of Thy most blessed Son. *And* we desire to approach Thine altar in charity with all men, praying Thee to *forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us. And*—Oh! en we have filled our souls with heavenly food—
us not into overpowering *temptation, but deliver*
it be Thy blessed will, *from* all affliction of

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body; and especially from *evil* thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul, *for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

HYMN XII.

AFTER HOLY COMMUNION.

ST. MARK'S DAY.

From the Gospel. St. John xv.

I AM the true Vine, and My Father is the husbandman. Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit He taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without Me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples.

Thoughts.

OUR Blessed Lord compares Himself to a vine, the stem and root of a vine, while His people are the branches. Let us look at Christ's people under the aspects here presented to us. 1st. They are purged or cleansed by the Word of God, that divine Person Who came into the world, not only to die for us, but also to wash away our sins, and to purify to

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Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. 2nd. Some bear fruit, but not much fruit. The Word of God makes no deep impression upon them, and so when the devil comes, they are powerless to resist him; he lays his snares, and they fall an easy prey, or they are persons of no stability and strength of character, and so they are soon offended. Their faith is shaken when the truth of their religion is called in question, or when they themselves suffer in any way; or they give themselves up to a worldly life, with all its absorbing cares and pleasures; and so their good intention and desire to do right never ripens into consistent action. But observe, the good husbandman never allows them to reach this unsatisfactory state without an effort on His part. He purgeth them from time to time, He sends them trials and afflictions to draw away their thoughts from too much love of earthly things, to deepen their thoughts with respect to heavenly things, and to develop the good that lies within them. Let me then thank the Lord for giving me warning, for having chastened and corrected me, but not given me over unto death. May He grant me grace for the future to live more to His glory.

Psalm xvi.

PRESERVE me, O God: for in Thee have I put my trust. O my soul, thou hast said unto the Lord: Thou art my God, my goods are nothing unto Thee. All my delight is upon the saints, that are in the earth: and upon such as excel in virtue. But they that run after another god: shall have great trouble. Their drink-offerings of blood will I not offer: neither make mention of their names within my lips. The Lord Himself is the portion of mine inheritance, and of my cup: Thou shalt maintain my lot. The lot is fallen unto me in a fair ground: yea, I have a goodly heri-

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tage. I will thank the Lord for giving me warning : my reins also chasten me in the night-season. I have set God always before me : for He is on my right hand, therefore I shall not fall. Wherefore my heart was glad, and my glory rejoiced : my flesh also shall rest in hope. For why? Thou shalt not leave my soul in hell : neither shalt Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption. Thou shalt shew me the path of life; in Thy presence is the fulness of joy : and at Thy right hand there is pleasure for evermore.

Nunc Dimittis.

LORD, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace : according to Thy word. For mine eyes have seen : Thy salvation. Which Thou hast prepared : before the face of all people. To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be, &c.

¶ *See above, "Communion of the Sick," post-communion prayer, "Almighty and everliving God," &c., page* 19.

DYING PENITENT.

DO you believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost? Do you confess that you have not served God as truly as you might have done? Do you heartily thank God for sending His only Son into the world to die for you? Are you ready to forgive, &c.

¶ *See page* 34.

¶ ***Sentences that may be read slowly.***

The Psalmist.—Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. The sacrifices of God

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are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

St. John.—If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us: but, if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and He is the propitiation for our sins. God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

St. Paul.—I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.

Jesus Christ.—Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My word and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

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All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep. I am the Resurrection and the Life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's House are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. Behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with Me.

O God the Father, of heaven;
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world;
O God the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son;
} have mercy upon the soul of this Thy servant.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord; and Light perpetual shine upon him.

By Thine Agony and bloody Sweat; by Thy Cross and Passion; by Thy precious Death and Burial; by Thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Ghost,

Good Lord, deliver him.

In this *his* time of tribulation; in this *his* greatest need; in the hour of death, and in the day of Judgment,

Good Lord, deliver him.

We, sinners, do beseech Thee to hear us,

That it may please Thee to deliver the soul of

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Thy servant from the powers of darkness, and the place of punishment. From the gates of hell, O Lord, deliver *his* soul.

We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

Son of God, we beseech Thee to hear us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Grant us Thy peace.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Christ, hear us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ have, &c.
Lord have, &c.
Our Father . . . . from evil.

O Lord, deal not with us after our sins.
Neither reward us after our iniquities.

¶ "*The Commendatory Prayer*" *in* "*The Visitation of the Sick,*" *page* 29, *then,*

WHILE your soul is in your body, put all your trust in Christ; Think not of your life, nor children, nor things here, but think of Jesus Christ stretched on the cross for you, and say—

"Lord, Father of heaven, the death of Thine only Son Jesus Christ I place between Thee and my sins."

and again say—

"Into Thy hands I commend my spirit, for Thou 'st redeemed me, O Lord God of Truth."

The above two sentences are to be repeated slowly several times.

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WITH FRIENDS OF FAITHFUL DEPARTED.

¶ *Read one or more of the Sentences from St. Paul and Jesus Christ in the preceding Office, then,*

THE Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the Name of the Lord. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord; even so, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labours. The righteous live for evermore, their reward also is with the Lord, and the care of them is with the most High. Therefore shall they receive a glorious kingdom, and a beautiful crown from the Lord's hand, for with His right hand shall He cover them, and with His arm shall He protect them. I believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

ALMIGHTY, everlasting God, Who art Lord both of the living, and of those who have fallen asleep; Give, we beseech Thee, to us who remain, pardon and peace, and a happy departure from this world, that we, with this our dear *brother*, and all Thy saints who have gone before, may have rest in the region of light, and speedily rise with our glorified bodies to Thine everlasting kingdom. Blessed Lord, support us in all our trials here upon earth. Direct us in the ways of Thy most holy religion, gathering us under the feet of Thine elect, when Thou wilt, and as Thou wilt, only without sin and shame; through Thy mercy, O our God, Who hast alone appeared on earth without sin, and now livest and reignest for ever and ever. *Amen.*

1 Thess. iv.

BUT I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we

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believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord, shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

St. John vi.

ALL that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent Me, that of all which He hath given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of Him that sent Me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Address.

MY friends, sorrow we needs must as human beings for those who have left us; and yet as Christians our sorrow is subdued, chastened, refined; as Christians we cannot look upon death as an annihilation, as though our *brother* were for ever lost to us. The Apostle speaks here of death as a sleep. By this he means that our *brother* shall wake again from death. He does not mean by sleep that his soul or spirit is unconscious, for Scripture elsewhere speaks of the dead as being in comparative joy and felicity. We say comparative, for it is inferior to that perfect con-

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summation and bliss in body as well as in soul, to which we humbly believe our *brother* is now looking forward. And this is what we should all look forward to, the reappearance of our Blessed Lord. All true believers, whether living or departed, look forward to this Second Coming or Advent of Christ. And this Great Event (to speak with reverence) is what our Blessed Lord Himself looks forward to as being the perfection of all His work, "which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God." It is for this the accomplishment and preservation of His elect, that He prayed so earnestly just before His Crucifixion. It is for this that He instituted the Blessed Sacrament of His Body and Blood, that we, believing in Him, should be preserved both in body and in soul, unto His everlasting kingdom.

Blessed Lord, teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. O satisfy us with Thy mercy and that soon: so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life. Comfort us again now after the time that Thou hast plagued us. Thou knowest whereof we are made, Thou remembrest that we are but dust. The days of man are but as grass; as soon as the wind goeth over it, it is gone. But the merciful goodness of the Lord endureth for ever and ever upon them that fear Him. For Thou, O Lord, art the Resurrection and the Life, Thou art the God of the living.

GOD of the living, in Whose Eyes
Unveil'd Thy whole creation lies,
All souls are Thine; we must not say
That those are dead who pass away:
From this vain world of flesh set free,
We know them living unto Thee.

Released from earthly toil and strife,
With Thee is hidden now their life:

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Thine are their thoughts, their works, their powers,
All Thine, yet still most truly ours,
For well we know where'er they be
That all are living unto Thee.

Not spilt like water on the ground,
Not buried in a sleep profound,
Not wandering in unknown despair,
Beyond Thy voice, Thine Arm, Thy care,
Not lost upon a boundless sea,
Not dead, but living unto Thee.

Thy will be done, for Thou art just;
To Thee we leave them, Lord, in trust,
And bless Thee for the Love which gave
Thy Son to fill a human grave,
That none might fear that world to see
Where all are living unto Thee. Amen.

(J. Ellerton.)

WITH FRIENDS AFTER DEATH OF A CHILD, IF PREVIOUSLY BAPTIZED.

¶ *Sentences as in preceding Office, also:*

I SHALL go to Him. Thy children shall come again to their own border. Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God. I will see you again and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

INNOCENTS' DAY.

For the Epistle. Rev. xiv.

I LOOKED, and lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand,

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having His Father's Name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: and they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders; and no man could learn that song, but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women, for they are virgins: these are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth: these were redeemed from among men, being the first-fruits unto God, and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile; for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Address.

THIS is the portion of Scripture appointed for the Epistle on Innocents' Day. On this day we commemorate the Infants of Bethlehem who were slain by Herod. These Infants by their innocent deaths were martyrs or witnesses for Christ. But this Epistle bids us remember not only these particular Infants, but also all those who have been redeemed by Christ, and especially little children who are early called away to their heavenly Father. Let us see what is said of such. I. They are part of a hundred and forty and four thousand with the Lord's Name written on their foreheads, being first-fruits unto God and to the Lamb, *i.e.*, having been baptized into Christ, and remaining steadfast to Him, they form a portion of that vast, yet complete assembly of the Church triumphant in heaven. II. They are redeemed from among men, virgins not defiled with women, *i.e.*, they have perfected holiness in the fear of the Lord, having been redeemed by Christ's Blood, and sanctified by His Holy Spirit, they are preserved whole and undefiled; freed for ever from all dangers.

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from the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil. III. In their mouth is no guile, they are without fault, and they sing a new song, while the voice of harpers harp with their harps, *i. e.*, there is no deceit nor wickedness of any kind found there; for all are spotless and blameless, having been washed with the Blood of the Lamb. They have harps of praise only, no vials of incense, for they have no need of prayer; and the Throne, the Beasts and the Elders, together with the new song they sing, and which none but they can sing, are all part of the wonderful sights and sounds which now open upon them, but which in this world can never be seen by the eye, nor heard by the ear. While then you grieve for the loss of your child, rejoice more that God has made you an instrument for bringing him into the world, that He has allowed your child to escape so many dangers that beset the souls of those whose years are prolonged, and that He has so quickly made him a member of the blessed company of the saints and angels triumphant in heaven.

Psalm xxiv.

THE earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is : the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein. For He hath founded it upon the seas : and prepared it upon the floods. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord : or who shall rise up in His holy place? Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart : and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbour. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord : and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is the generation of them that seek Him : even of them that seek thy face, O Jacob. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors : and the King of glory shall come in. Who is the King of glory : it is the Lord strong and mighty, even

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the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors : and the King of glory shall come in. Who is the King of glory : even the Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.

None but the Lord Jesus is worthy to ascend into heaven, but He can take up thither all those whom He has made pure and holy, like unto Himself. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the Name of the Lord.

O SAVIOUR of the world, Who didst take up little children in Thine arms and bless them, we give Thee hearty thanks that Thou hast taken into Thine everlasting arms the soul of our dear little *brother*. We give Thee back, O Lord, Thine own child, redeemed by Thy most precious Blood, regenerated by Thy Holy Spirit, and saved from the temptations of this sinful world. Blessed Lord, support us in all our trials here upon earth. Direct us in the ways of Thy most holy religion, gathering us under the feet of Thine elect, when Thou wilt, and as Thou wilt, only without sin and shame ; through Thy mercy, O our God, Who hast alone appeared on earth without sin, and now livest and reignest for ever and ever. *Amen.*

¶ *The following may be used on ordinary occasions.*

ADDITIONAL PSALMS.

Psalm lxi.

HEAR my crying, O God : give ear unto my prayer. From the ends of the earth will I call upon Thee : when my heart is in heaviness. O set me up upon the rock that is higher than I : for Thou hast been my hope, and a strong tower for me

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against the enemy. I will dwell in Thy tabernacle for ever : and my trust shall be under the covering of Thy wings. For Thou, O Lord, hast heard my desires : and hast given an heritage unto those that fear Thy Name. Thou shalt grant the King a long life : that his years may endure throughout all generations. He shall dwell before God for ever : O prepare Thy loving mercy and faithfulness, that they may preserve him. So will I alway sing praise unto Thy Name : that I may daily perform my vows.

The Christian's great resort is Prayer. Christ's saints dwell for ever in Him the Rock.

Psalm lxii.

MY soul truly waiteth still upon God : for of Him cometh my salvation. He verily is my strength and my salvation : He is my defence, so that I shall not greatly fall. How long will ye imagine mischief against every man : ye shall be slain all the sort of you ; yea, as a tottering wall shall ye be, and like a broken hedge. Their device is only how to put Him out whom God will exalt : their delight is in lies ; they give good words with their mouth, but curse with their heart. Nevertheless, my soul, wait thou still upon God : for my hope is in Him. He truly is my strength and my salvation : He is my defence, so that I shall not fall. In God is my health, and my glory : the rock of my might, and in God is my trust. O put your trust in Him alway, ye people : pour out your hearts before Him, for God is our hope. As for the children of men, they are but vanity : the children of men are deceitful upon the weights, they are altogether lighter than vanity itself. O trust not in wrong and robbery, give not yourselves unto

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vanity : if riches increase, set not your heart upon them. God spake once, and twice I have also heard the same : that power belongeth unto God; And that Thou, Lord, art merciful : for Thou rewardest every man according to his work.

The Christian puts his trust in God, and not in this world and its riches.

Psalm lxiii.

O GOD, Thou art my God : early will I seek Thee. My soul thirsteth for Thee, my flesh also longeth after Thee : in a barren and dry land where no water is. Thus have I looked for Thee in holiness : that I might behold Thy power and glory. For Thy loving-kindness is better than the life itself : my lips shall praise Thee. As long as I live will I magnify Thee on this manner : and lift up my hands in Thy Name. My soul shall be satisfied, even as it were with marrow and fatness : when my mouth praiseth Thee with joyful lips. Have I not remembered Thee in my bed : and thought upon Thee when I was waking? Because Thou hast been my helper : therefore under the shadow of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hangeth upon Thee : Thy right Hand hath upholden me. These also that seek the hurt of my soul : they shall go under the earth. Let them fall upon the edge of the sword : that they may be a portion for foxes. But the King shall rejoice in God; all they also that swear by Him shall be commended : for the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.

The Christian loves to meditate upon God and His goodness continually.

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Psalm lxxvii.

I WILL cry unto God with my voice : even unto God will I cry with my voice, and He shall hearken unto me. In the time of my trouble I sought the Lord : my sore ran, and ceased not in the night-season ; my soul refused comfort. When I am in heaviness, I will think upon God : when my heart is vexed, I will complain. Thou holdest mine eyes waking : I am so feeble, that I cannot speak. I have considered the days of old : and the years that are past. I call to remembrance my song : and in the night I commune with mine own heart, and search out my spirits. Will the Lord absent Himself for ever : and will He be no more intreated ? Is His mercy clean gone for ever : and is His promise come utterly to an end for evermore? Hath God forgotten to be gracious : and will He shut up His loving-kindness in displeasure? And I said, It is mine own infirmity : but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most Highest. I will remember the works of the Lord : and call to mind Thy wonders of old time. I will think also of all Thy works : and my talking shall be of Thy doings.

The Christian in His affliction draws near to His God, and receives comfort.

Psalm lxxxvi.

BOW down Thine ear, O Lord, and hear me : for I am poor, and in misery. Preserve Thou my soul, for I am holy : my God, save Thy servant that putteth His trust in Thee. Be merciful unto me, O Lord : for I will call daily upon Thee. Comfort the soul of Thy servant : for unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. For Thou, Lord, art good and gracious : and of great mercy unto all them that call upon Thee. Give ear, Lord,

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unto my prayer : and ponder the voice of my humble desires. In the time of my trouble I will call upon Thee : for Thou hearest me. Among the gods there is none like unto Thee, O Lord : there is not one that can do as Thou doest. All nations whom Thou hast made shall come and worship Thee, O Lord : and shall glorify Thy Name. For Thou art great, and doest wondrous things : Thou art God alone. Teach me Thy way, O Lord, and I will walk in Thy truth : O knit my heart unto Thee, that I may fear Thy Name. I will thank Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart : and will praise Thy Name for evermore.

The Christian in his trouble expresses his firm trust and confidence in his God.

Psalm cxxx.

OUT of the deep have I called unto Thee, O Lord : Lord, hear my voice. O let Thine ears consider well : the voice of my complaint. If Thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss : O Lord, who may abide it? For there is mercy with Thee: therefore shalt Thou be feared. I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for Him : in His word is my trust. My soul fleeth unto the Lord : before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch. O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy : and with Him is plenteous redemption. And He shall redeem Israel : from all His sins.

The Christian calls upon his God out of the very depths of his soul; he flies to Him Who alone has power to rescue from the depths of misery. even the Lord Jesus Himself, the Redeemer of His people Israel.

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Psalm cxliii.

HEAR my prayer, O Lord, and consider my desire : hearken unto me for Thy truth and righteousness' sake. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant : for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul ; he hath smitten my life down to the ground : he hath laid me in the darkness, as the men that have been long dead. Therefore is my spirit vexed within me : and my heart within me is desolate. Yet do I remember the time past ; I muse upon all Thy works : yea, I exercise myself in the works of Thy hands. I stretch forth my hands unto Thee : my soul gaspeth unto Thee as a thirsty land. Hear me, O Lord, and that soon, for my spirit waxeth faint : hide not Thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. O let me hear Thy loving-kindness betimes in the morning, for in Thee is my trust : shew Thou me the way that I should walk in, for I lift up my soul unto Thee. Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies : for I flee unto Thee to hide me. Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth Thee, for Thou art my God : let Thy loving Spirit lead me forth into the land of righteousness. Quicken me, O Lord, for Thy Name's sake : and for Thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. And of Thy goodness slay mine enemies : and destroy all them that vex my soul ; for I am Thy servant.

The Christian confesses his sinfulness, and prays for grace to turn to his God.

HYMNS.

I.

BRIEF Life is here our portion ;
Brief sorrow, short-lived care ;
The life that knows no ending,
The tearless life, is *there*.

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O happy retribution!
  Short toil, eternal rest;
For mortals and for sinners
  A mansion with the blest!

There grief is turned to pleasure,
  Such pleasure as below
No human voice can utter,
  No human heart can know.

Reach forward to that glory,
  Press onward to that light;
And strive by hope to grasp it,
  Till faith be lost in sight.

The morning shall awaken,
  The shadows pass away,
And each true-hearted servant
  Shall shine as doth the day.

Exult, O dust and ashes!
  The Lord shall be thy part,
His only, His for ever,
  Thou shalt be and Thou art.

II.

MY God, my Father, while I stray,
  Far from my home, on life's rough way,
O teach me from my heart to say,
  "Thy Will be done."

What though in lonely grief I sigh
For friends beloved no longer nigh,
Submissive I would still reply,
  "Thy Will be done."

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If Thou shouldst call me to resign
What most I prize, it ne'er was mine;
I only yield Thee what is Thine:
"Thy Will be done."

If sickness wastes me to decay,
Let me with humble faith obey,
And teach Thy servant still to pray,
"Thy Will be done."

Renew my will from day to day,
Blend it with Thine, and take away
All that now makes it hard to say,
"Thy Will be done."
(C. Elliot.)

III.

O HELP us, Lord; each hour of need
Thy heavenly succour give;
Help us in thought, and word, and deed,
Each hour on earth we live.

O help us when our spirits bleed
With contrite anguish sore;
And when our hearts are cold and dead,
O help us, Lord, the more.

O help us through the prayer of faith
More firmly to believe;
For still the more the servant hath,
The more shall he receive.

O help us, Jesu, from on high;
We know no help but Thee.
O help us so to live and die
As Thine in heaven to be.

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IV.

BELOVÈD, "it is well!"
God's ways are always right;
And love is o'er them all,
Though far above our sight.

Belovèd, "it is well,"
Though deep and sore the smart,
He wounds who skills to bind
And heal the broken heart.

Belovèd, "it is well!"
Though sorrows cloud our way,
'Twill make the joy more dear,
That ushers in the day.

Belovèd, "it is well!"
The path that Jesus trod,
Though rough and dark it be,
Leads homeward to our God.

(Bishop Doane.)

V.

LORD, on earth I see Thee
Passing to and fro,
Soothing every sorrow,
Lightening every woe.

Those who should have loved Thee
Curse Thee for Thy love,
Own Thee not the Saviour
Promised from above,

Curse return for blessing!
Hate for Thy goodwill!
Earth cannot retain Thee
Who all heaven canst fill.

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Now those courts of heaven
With Hosannas ring,
Welcome Thee the Saviour,
Prophet, Priest, and King.

Lord, I see Thee standing
On the golden floor,
Angel-hosts surround Thee,
Worship and adore.

Now I see Thee coming
To judge and not to save,
And Thy clear voice soundeth
Through the hollow grave.

Ease, O Lord, I ask not,
Nor from pain release;
But that my last moments
May in Thee be peace.

Lord, all ills I welcome,
Tokens of Thy love;
The royal road Thou trodest
To the courts above.

Glory to the Father,
Glory to the Son,
And to Thee, blest Spirit,
Whilst all ages run.

(C. F. G.)

VI.

GOD the Father from on high,
Look on me with loving eye,
Hearken to my feeble cry,
Lord, be merciful to me.

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God the Son, Who from Thy Throne
Camest down to seek Thine own,
Hearken to my piteous moan,
Lord, be merciful to me.

God the Spirit ever blest,
Comforter and Healer best,
Hearken to my prayer for rest,
Lord, be merciful to me.

Christ Who from the Red Sea wave
Didst Thy chosen people save,
Lift Thy servant from the grave,
Lord, be merciful to me.

Thou Who wilt again appear,
On the last great day of fear,
Save me, Thou Redeemer dear,
Lord, be merciful to me.

By this chastisement of pain
Wean me from affections vain,
Cleanse my heart from guilty stain,
Lord, be merciful to me.

Grant me spotless purity,
Patience in adversity,
And a peaceful end in Thee,
Lord, be merciful to me.

Then, O Shepherd, good and wise,
Let me see Thee with mine eyes
In Thy fold of Paradise,
Lord, be merciful to me.

VII.

ART thou weary, art thou languid,
Art thou sore distrest?
"Come to Me," saith One, "and coming
Be at rest!"

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Hath He marks to lead me to Him,
If He be my guide?
"In His Feet and Hands are Wound-prints,
And His Side."

Hath He diadem as Monarch
That His Brow adorns?
"Yea, a Crown, in very surety,
But of thorns."

If I find Him, if I follow,
What His guerdon here?
"Many a sorrow, many a labour,
Many a tear."

If I still hold closely to Him,
What hath He at last?
"Sorrow vanquished, labour ended,
Jordan past."

If I ask Him to receive me,
Will He say me nay?
"Not till earth, and not till heaven
Pass away."

Finding, following, keeping, struggling,
Is He sure to bless?
"Angels, Martyrs, Prophets, Virgins,
Answer, Yes!" Amen.

VIII.

O LORD, how happy should we be
If we could cast our care on Thee,
If we from self could rest;
And feel at heart that One above
In perfect wisdom, perfect love,
Is working for the best.

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How far from this our daily life,
How oft disturbed by anxious strife,
  By sudden wild alarms;
Oh, could we but relinquish all
Our earthly props, and simply fall
  On Thine Almighty Arms!

Could we but kneel and cast our load,
E'en while we pray, upon our God,
  Then rise with lightened cheer;
Sure that the Father, Who is nigh
To still the famished raven's cry,
  Will hear in that we fear.

We cannot trust Him as we should;
So chafes weak nature's restless mood
  To cast its peace away:
But birds and flowerets round us preach,
All, all the present evil teach
  Sufficient for the day.

Lord, make these faithless hearts of ours
Such lessons learn from birds and flowers;
  Make them from self to cease,
Leave all things to a Father's will,
And taste, before Him lying still,
  E'en in affliction peace. Amen.

(Joseph Anstice.)

IX.

THY way, not mine, O Lord,
  However dark it be;
Lead me by Thine own Hand,
Choose out the path for me.

Smooth let it be, or rough,
It will be still the best;
Winding, or straight, it leads
Right onward to Thy rest.

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I dare not choose my lot;
I would not if I might;
Choose Thou for me, my God,
So shall I walk aright.

The kingdom that I seek
Is Thine; so let the way
That leads to it be Thine,
Else I must surely stray.

Take Thou my cup, and it
With joy or sorrow fill,
As best to Thee may seem;
Choose Thou my good or ill.

Choose Thou for me my friends,
My sickness or my health;
Choose Thou my cares for me,
My poverty or wealth.

Not mine, not mine the choice
In things or great or small;
Be Thou my Guide, my Strength,
My Wisdom, and my All! Amen.

(H. Bonar.)

X.

O HAPPY band of pilgrims,
If onward ye will tread,
With Jesus as your Fellow,
To Jesus as your Head!

O happy if ye labour
As Jesus did for men:
O happy if ye hunger,
As Jesus hungered then!

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The Cross that Jesus carried
  He carried as your due:
The Crown that Jesus weareth
  He weareth it for you.

The faith by which ye see Him,
  The hope in which ye yearn,
The love that through all troubles
  To Him alone will turn,

The trials that beset you,
  The sorrows ye endure,
The manifold temptations
  That death alone can cure,

What are they but His jewels
  Of right celestial worth?
What are they but the ladder
  Set up to heaven on earth?

O happy band of pilgrims,
  Look upward to the skies,
Where such a light affliction
  Shall win so great a prize. Amen.

XI.

"NEARER, O God, to Thee!" Hear Thou my prayer;
E'en though a heavy cross fainting I bear,
  Still all my prayer shall be,
"Nearer, O God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!"

If where they led my Lord, I too am borne,
Planting my steps in His, weary and worn;
  Oh, may they carry me
"Nearer, O God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!"

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If Thou the cup of pain givest to drink,
Let not my trembling lip from the draught shrink;
So by my woes to be
"Nearer, O God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!"

Though the great battle rage hotly around,
Still where my Captain fights let me be found;
Through toils and strife to be
"Nearer, O God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!"

When my course finished, I breathe my last breath,
Ent'ring the shadowy valley of death,
There too I still shall be
"Nearer, O God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!"

And when Thou, Lord, once more glorious shalt come,
Oh for a dwelling-place in Thy bright home!
Through all eternity
"Nearer, O God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!" Amen.

(S. F. Adams, re-written by the Rev. W. W. How.)

XII.

THE King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me,
And on His Shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

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In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy Cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a Table in my sight;
Thy Unction grace bestoweth;
And oh! what transport of delight
From Thy pure Chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house for ever. Amen.

THE END.

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APPENDIX.

GENERAL OFFICE (c).

TO the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against Him. Neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws which He set before us. If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed because His compassions fail not.

Let us pray.

Lord, have, &c. Christ, &c. Lord, &c. Our Father, &c.

Minister. O Lord, show Thy mercy upon Thy servant.

Answer. And grant *him* Thy salvation.

M. Keep Thy servant from presumptuous sins;

A. And cleanse *him* from *his* secret faults.

M. Enter not into judgment with Thy servant, O Lord.

A. For in Thy sight shall no man living be justified.

M. Turn Thee, O Lord, and deliver *his* soul;

A. O save *him*, for Thy mercies' sake.

M. Have mercy upon *him*, O Lord, for *he* is weak;

A. O Lord, heal *him*, for *his* bones are vexed.

M. *His* soul also is sore troubled;

A. But, Lord, how long wilt Thou punish *him?*

M. O Lord, let Thy mercy lighten upon *him*,

A. As *his* trust is in Thee.

M. O Lord, hear our prayers;

A. And let our cry come unto Thee.

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THE Lord is full of compassion and mercy, long-suffering, and of great kindness; may He forgive thee all thy sins and heal all thine infirmities. May He save thy life from destruction, and crown thee with mercy and loving-kindness. Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth; therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Lord. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation, for when he is tried he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him. Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well-doing, as unto a faithful Creator. With the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Notes on Creed. ¶ *See page* 32. God hath appointed a day in the which He will judge the world in righteousness, by that Man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead.
Notes on Commandments. ¶ *See page* 33.
Are you ready, &c. ¶ *See page* 34.

O GOD, Whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive, receive our humbly petitions; and though we be tied and bound with the chain of our sins, yet let the pitifulness of The great mercy loose us; for the honour of Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, the Fountain of all wisdom, Who knowest our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking, we beseech Thee to have compassion upon our infirmities, and those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, vouchsafe to give us for the worthiness of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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O GOD, our Refuge in pain, our Strength in weakness, our Comfort in weariness, our Help in tribulation, our Solace in tears, spare, O Lord, spare Thy people whom Thou hast redeemed. Spare us, good Lord, and be not angry with us for ever.

THE Almighty and everlasting God, receive thy prayers, and cause thee in the midst of thy trouble to rejoice in His mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* The peace of God, &c.

O GOD, the Father of heaven, &c. ¶ *See page* 34.

Remember not, Lord, our iniquities, &c. ¶ *See page* 21.

Spare Thy servant, good Lord,

From the guilt and burden of *his* sins, from the deceits and assaults of *his* ghostly enemy, from the powers of darkness, and from the bitter pains of eternal death,

From all impatience and repining at Thy chastisements, from the stings and terrors of conscience, from dejection of spirit, and from distrust and despair of Thy mercies,

From the extremity of sickness, anguish, or agony that may in any way withdraw *his* mind from Thee, from Thy wrath and heavy indignation, from the fear of death, and from the dreadful sentence of the last judgment,

By Thine Agony and Bloody Sweat, by the awful hours of Thy Cross and Passion, by Thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension, by Thine Intercession and Mediation at the Right Hand of God, and by the Graces and Comforts of the Holy Ghost,

} Good Lord, deliver *him*.

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We sinners do beseech Thee to hear us, O Lord God, and that it may please Thee to relieve *his* pains, and to restore *him* in health and safety to Thy Holy Church,

That it may please Thee to increase *his* Faith, Hope, and Love, to give *him* true and Christian patience in all *his* troubles and adversities,

That it may please Thee to give *him* a humble and contrite heart, pardon and remission of all *his* sins, and when Thou shalt call *him* home a quiet and joyful departure,

That it may please Thee to give Thy holy Angels charge over *him*, to assist *him* in *his* last conflict, and to conduct *his* soul into the blessed company of the Saints in Paradise, there to rest in joy and peace till Thou shalt vouchsafe to *his* body a part in the blessed Resurrection to life and glory,

We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

Son of God . . . our iniquities. ¶ *See page* 124.

O God, merciful, &c. ¶ *See page* 97. The Grace, &c.

For a blessing on means used for recovery, and for use in Hospitals.

O ALMIGHTY Lord God, in Whose hand is the breath of every living thing, give Thy blessing, we beseech Thee, to all the means used for the recovery of this Thy afflicted servant. [Relieve *his* pain, and] restore *him* to health, that *he* may give thanks to Thee in the Courts of Thy House, and live to Thy Glory. But if Thou shalt determine otherwise, O prepare *his* soul for its great account. Teach *him* to cast all *his* care upon Thee, and to say, 'Father, not my will but Thine be done.' Grant this for the sake of Thine only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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For Protection.

ALMIGHTY God, our only Refuge in time of trouble, keep Thy servant, we beseech Thee, under the shadow of Thy Cross steadfast in Faith, firm in Hope, patient in Adversity, and for the glory of Thy Name mercifully assist *him* in all *his* sufferings, to Thy honour and glory, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Act of Resignation.

BLESSED Lord, I desire neither life nor death, but that Thy holy will may be done in me. Thou, O Lord, art the thing that I long for, be it unto me according to Thy good pleasure. If it be Thy will that I should die, O receive my soul, and grant that in Thee, and with Thee, I may have everlasting rest. If it be Thy will that I should live longer upon the earth, give me grace to amend my life, and with good works to glorify Thy holy Name, who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, livest and reignest, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Anima Christi. For the Dying.

SOUL of Christ, sanctify thee. Body of Christ, save thee. Blood of Christ, animate thee. Water from the side of Christ, wash thee. May the good Jesus hear thee. Within His wounds hide thee. Suffer thee not to be separated from Him. From the malignant enemy may He defend thee. In the hour of death call thee. And bid thee come to Him. That with the Saints thou mayest praise Him for ever and ever.

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An Intercession which may be used with the friends after a death, or at any other time.

ALMIGHTY and merciful Father, Who art the hope of the hopeless, the Help of the helpless, the Lifter-up of the fallen, look down with pity and compassion upon all fatherless children, and widows, and all that are desolate and oppressed in mind, body, or estate; comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, give them patience under their sufferings, and in thine own good time a happy issue out of all their afflictions, and this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

HYMNS.

XIII.

I AM not worthy, Holy Lord,
That Thou shouldst come to me;
Speak but the word; one gracious word
Can set the sinner free.

I am not worthy; cold and bare
The lodging of my soul;
How canst Thou deign to enter there?
Lord, speak, and make me whole.

I am not worthy; yet, my God,
How can I say Thee nay?
Thee, who didst give Thy Flesh and Blood,
My ransom-price to pay.

O come! in this sweet morning hour
Feed me with Food Divine:
And fill with all Thy love and power
This worthless heart of mine. Amen.

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XIV.

ONWARD, faithful soldiers, tread where Christ has trod;
On through toil and danger to the Mount of God.

What though Marah's waters bitter are to taste;
What though worn and weary tread ye Sinai's waste.

Soon by pure sweet water shall ye rest your head;
And in God's own city eat the Living Bread.

What though wars and tumults be your portion here;
Peace on war shall follow, calm on tumult *there*.

What though pain and anguish wrinkle now your brow;
Joy shall follow anguish, ease from pain shall flow.

Rest from weary labour, rest from anxious strife;
Feast shall follow fasting, death be lost in life.

Life, that speaks of glory, and of bliss unknown;
Where the saints and angels stand around the throne.

Patience then, ye faithful, tread where Christ has trod;
On through toil and danger to the Mount of God.

C. F. G.

¶ *See also Hymns VII. XI. XII.*

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